'We deal with school threats seriously.' PAGE 2

USDOL files notice of default against IPI. PAGE 3

$1

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
This file photo of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino was taken in 2019.

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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

# DPL terminates Dynasty's land lease

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has terminated its land lease agreement with the owner of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for failing to pay its lease rental and fees that has now allegedly reached $161,170.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos issued a notice of termination to

*See DPL on Page 4*

## $25K bail imposed on teens involved in FMS shooting threats

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $25,000 cash bail on each of the two teens arrested over the weekend for their alleged involvement in the online threats made of a school shooting at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

Following a weeklong investigation, DPS has apprehended two suspects— two 16-year-old males—believed

*See $25K on Page 4*

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
As a precautionary measure following threats made about a school shooting at the Hopwood Middle School, Department of Public Safety officers remain posted at the entrance and inside of the school campus.

## Westerman deeply concerned about PRC nationals illegally entering Guam from CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark) has informed Gov. Arnold I. Palacios that they are deeply

*See WESTERMAN on Page 4*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark) during a recent oversight field hearing in Guam.

## Villagomez files bill to authorize $15M line of credit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Villagomez

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to authorize a revolving line

*See CREDIT on Page 4*

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**
**Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:**
**11**

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# Local

## ‘We deal with school threats seriously’

Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores warned individuals causing terroristic threats and or any kind of threats, violence against students and personnel, and or causing disruption of school operations, emphasizing that perpetrators will be dealt with accordingly.

“Making terroristic threats or threats to life, property, and any form of threat and violence will no longer be tolerated. Anyone who is found responsible for doing this will have a heavy weight to bear, so now, I say one more time: whoever is making these threats please stop,” she said following last week’s shooting threats at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School.

Flores met with the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies over the weekend to discuss the growing threats against schools using various social media platforms. Both agencies have agreed there are laws, both local and federal, that provide for harsh penalties and consequences.

The Public School System and DPS are now working with cyber security experts to locate the origin of threats which were made through social media against students/public schools last week, the media release said.

“We have to deal with this accordingly because of the cost and impact of these threats to our schools and government resources, notwithstanding the impact of every threat on the emotional, mental and wellbeing, and academic lives of our students,” said Flores.

She added, “because we take every threat seriously, addressing them takes more resources away from what we and our law enforcement partners do every single day.”

PSS said threats to students, schools and school property by a student is considered a “Category 1” offense which will be dealt with suspension and may result in expulsion and referral to law enforcement.

The 2022 PSS Student Discipline Policy identifies these offenses (Section 3) Chronic disruption of the school program and/or activities, (7) Disruptive behavior which results in the interference with the normal school program, (10) Failure to assume responsibility for, or to control his/her behavior, (15) Participating in, or inciting a school disruption, and (32) bomb threat.

Flores

The Board of Education-PSS Rules and Regulations as codified by the 2019 CNMI Law Revision Commission strengthens this under “Category III—Offenses which shall result in expulsion and referral to law enforcement: (2) Acts of terrorism (such as bomb threats).”

The NMI government has also enacted a law that imposes tough penalties on threats and perpetrators of threats.

Public Law 12-83 penalized the “crime of terroristic threatening in the Commonwealth”.

Enacted in January 2002, the law found “the frequency and severity of these threats has risen to the level where the conduct needs to be criminalized, in order to stop these disruptions to public welfare.”

P.L. 12-83 defines terroristic threatening as “a person commits the crime of terroristic threatening if the person knowingly makes a false report that a circumstance dangerous to human life exists or is about to exist”.

It also includes “places a person in fear of physical injury to any person, causes evacuation of a building, (and) or causes serious public inconvenience.

A person convicted under this section may be punished by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 10 years, or a fine not to exceed 10 years or both.”

### Appeal to parents: Use social media responsibly

At the same time, Flores appealed to parents and guardians of PSS students, and the community, as a whole, to continue educating their children on the importance of using social media responsibly.

“Our community plays a very critical role when it comes to school safety. One of the biggest resources we have is our public—I, along with all of our stakeholders, appeal to the public that we need our parents and everyone out there to be educated about the dangers of social media when they are used unregulated or unguided,” she said.

PSS is now looking at imposing restrictions on social media while on campus. Parents, for their part, can do the same by imposing strictly regulated use of social media using various electronic gadgets, PSS said.

The education acting chief is reminding parents and guardians of public school students that they have signed an agreement with the school district on the use of PSS-issued laptops and iPads that parents should adhere to strict use of these learning tools and technologies.

The PSS media release at the same time is reminding the CNMI community that if they ever believe there is an immediate threat to a school, it is always best to call 911.

### ‘Listen to your child’

Flores said in home situations, parents can detect—and prevent potential—situations regarding their child’s behavior.

“Home intervention could provide a very critical aspect that could change or prevent their child’s actions. Your child could be facing difficulties and challenges and maybe having a hard time expressing them—talk to them, hug them…” she said.

“We parents have intervention roles that can prevent potential problems and challenges in our child. We can still prevent it if we listen to them, if we are there to check on them regularly on their needs, on their challenges and difficulties,” Flores added.

PSS has a team of mental health professionals, and has reiterated that it is assisting schools with various intervention programs as they work with parents on the mental health and well-being of every child/student, through their counselors.

“This is an all-hands approach for us at PSS and the school. We have programs that could assist our parents in providing them with an intervention approach that would ensure that their child will need support as they come to school and learn every day,” said Flores. ***(PR)***

# USDOL files notice of default against IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The United States Department of Labor has filed a notice of default against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC with the U.S. District Court for the NMI for failing to make payments toward consent judgment.

Last Friday, USDOL lawyer Charles Song filed a notice of default against IPI with the District Court for the NMI informing the court that IPI has failed to make full payments towards the standing amended consent judgment the parties previously entered into.

Specifically, Song said IPI has failed to make its Aug. 1 payment of $249,287 and its Sept. 1, payment of $249,287 within the time permitted by the amended consent judgment.

Song noted that IPI did make a partial payment of $50,000 in August.

Back on April 11, 2019, USDOL, IPI, and its mother company, IPI Holdings Ltd., entered into a consent judgment related to alleged labor violations at the IPI construction site.

"Under the terms of this court's judgment, IPI's failure to make timely payments constitutes an event of default. Pursuant to these terms, the secretary hereby declares a default of the amended consent judgment by filing this notice of default and serving it on IPI," Song said.

Song said as a result of IPI's default, the full gross amount outstanding and due under the court's consent judgment, plus post-judgment interest are immediately due to the U.S. Department of Labor. Song added that the full gross amount outstanding is $1,537,719.70 plus post-judgment interest.

"If defendants fail to cure the default within five business days from the filing of this notice of default, the secretary shall notify the court of the failure to cure such default by filing a notice of failure to cure default with the court. Within 10 business days of the date of the filing of the notice of failure to cure default, the receiver is authorized to exercise all powers authorized under the order appointing receiver and setting terms of receivership to sell defendants' assets, including but not limited to the Lot 330 Parcels," he said.

According to court documents, IPI and USDOL had entered into a consent judgment back in 2019 requiring the casino investor to make payments for unpaid minimum wage and overtime premiums pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

IPI failed to make these payments.

On Jan. 21, 2021, the district court issued an order finding IPI in contempt and directed IPI to purge contempt by paying the unpaid payroll, among others, of its employees.

To purge contempt, IPI entered into the first amended consent judgment.

IPI made the required payments under the first amended consent judgement, but USDOL found IPI violating the Immigration and Nationality Act and the FLSA after IPI's failure to pay the promised rate and accompanying FLSA overtime premium to its employees hired under the H-2B program.

Based on these violations IPI was again found in contempt of the court's injunction against violations of the FLSA.

To address the violations and purge its contempt, IPI agreed to enter into a second amended consent judgment.

IPI agreed to make payments towards the second amended consent judgment from January 2022 to January 2024.

# SHEFA application deadline on Sept. 30

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance announced that the deadline to apply and submit supporting documents is on Sept. 30, 2023.

New applicants must create an account before proceeding with the application online at www.saipanshefa.com

They should also make sure to have all supporting documents ready to be uploaded.

For more information, call 670-233-5995 or email us at saipanshefa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

# Man involved in theft of debit card granted release

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the bail modification requested by a man allegedly involved in the theft of a debit card and he has been released to his wife.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan granted the request of Jimmy Regunan Joaquin Jr., to be released to his wife upon posting 10% of his $1,000 cash bail.

Although he will be released to his wife, the judge informed Joaquin that because his wife has a full-time job, during the times she is out, he is strictly under house arrest and may only leave their home if his wife, and third-party custodian, is present.

In addition, Bogdan said Joaquin's home will be subject to random visits from law enforcement to ensure he is complying with the court's conditions of house arrest.

According to court documents Joaquin, 32, and co-defendant Edward Palacios Castro, 37, are facing separate charges of forgery, and misuse of financial instruments.

The judge imposed a $1,000 cash bail on both defendants and remanded them to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

On Aug. 22, 2023, the Department of Public Safety dispatch received a call from an off-duty police sergeant reporting a theft incident.

He told investigators that his Bank of Hawaii debit card was stolen and was being used at different business establishments. He said a total amount of $669.15 had already been charged to his card.

The next day, after reviewing surveillance footage from stores and a gas station, investigators identified Joaquin and Castro as the persons swiping the debit card and signing the receipts.

In an interview with the police, Joaquin said Castro went to his house and asked for help to get money. Castro allegedly said he had a Bank of Hawaii card that belonged to his aunt.

When shown surveillance footage from different establishments, Joaquin admitted that he was the one wearing a red T-shirt.

Castro, for his part, told police that he went to Joaquin's house because Joaquin owed him money. Castro alleges that Joaquin showed him a blue Bank of Hawaii debit card.

When shown a surveillance footage from a business establishment, Castro admitted that he was the one wearing a blue ball cap, camouflage green jacket, and dark camouflage short pants.

Castro added that Joaquin had the debit card the whole time and he only swiped the card two times.

DPL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS DPL
ON-SITE SALE FOR 50 ROOMS ONLY
Friday & Saturday., Sept. 22 & 23, 2023,
8:30am to 4:00pm
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EVERYTHING MUST GO!
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
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9:00am to 2:00pm
ONE DAY ONLY
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$15
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2023 Joint General Membership Meeting on **Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the World Resort – Sunflower Room at 10:00 AM**
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

**I. Call to Order**
**II. Roll Call**
**III. Appointment of Presiding Officer for Joint Meeting ("Today")**
**IV. Review and Adoption of Agenda**
**V. Review and Adoption of General Membership Meeting Minutes**
- a. SRC FY 2023 Third General Membership Meeting. (June 29, 2023)
- b. SILC FY 2023 Third General Membership Meeting. (June 28, 2023)

**VI. Reports**
- a. SRC Chairperson
- b. SILC Chairperson
- c. CLI Director
- d. OVR Director

**VII. Old Business**
- a. Orientation and Training
- b. Membership Vacancies

**VIII. New Business**
- a. National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- b. Acceptance Campaign
- c. FY 2023 Joint Annual Report

**IX. Action Items**
- a. Ratify Executive Committee Motion for Member Nomination
- b. Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SRC Resource Plan
- c. Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SILC Resource Plan
- d. Removal of Member(s)
- e. Election of Officers for SRC

**X. Miscellaneous**
**XI. Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ann Marie Marciano at (670) 322-6537 (voice) or email at annmarie@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:30 am.

/s/ **Preston O. Basa**
*SRC Chairperson*

/s/ **Nicolas DLC. Torres**
*SILC Chairperson*

**Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration.**

# Man accused of assaulting girlfriend over spilled food pleads not guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man who was arrested after allegedly assaulting his girlfriend over spilled food has pleaded not guilty.

Diopulos Iokapus appeared before the Superior Court yesterday for his arraignment.

During his arraignment, Iokapus pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against him including assault, assault and battery, vandalism, and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, Diopulos told police that he had just cooked food for his family when he told his girlfriend that he wanted to go to his cousin's house.

When he told her this, Diopulos said his girlfriend got mad and dumped the food he had just cooked in the sink.

This caused Diopulos to get mad so he continuously slammed the pan he used to cook the food on the sink until it broke.

He added that he tried to leave but his girlfriend held him back.

Sometime during the altercation, Diopulos said his girlfriend fell on a nearby futon but he does not remember hitting her. He did tell police he might have while he was trying to leave.

Diopulos said when he was able to get away from his girlfriend, he threw his bag off the balcony of their residence and while he was headed back to get the rest of his things, his girlfriend locked him out.

The defendant alleges that knocked he on the glass door so hard it shattered.

Diopulos' girlfriend also gave the police a statement.

She claims that during the altercation, Diopulos pushed her onto a nearby futon and punched her in the back of her head causing her to feel dizzy.

She said Diopulos also slammed a nearby highchair on the ground causing it to break and allegedly threatened to hit her with it.

She told police that Diopulos started to throw his things out so she ran to the door and locked it.

The woman said after locking the door, Diopulos kept punching it causing the glass to shatter so she called police for assistance.

## $25K

*From page 1*

to have made the online threats of a school shooting at FMSMS last Sept. 11.

"After a thorough investigation, DPS apprehended two underage individuals responsible for making violent threats against Fransisco M. Sablan Middle School," DPS spokesperson Fred Sato stated.

According to a press release from DPS, the two boys were each charged with making a terroristic threat and conspiracy and were arrested last Sunday.

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, who signed off on the arrest warrant, imposed a $25,000 bail on each suspect for the charge filed against them.

The initial appearance and bail hearing for both males was held yesterday but *Saipan Tribune* was not permitted to attend as the two suspects will be tried as juveniles.

With the number of threats that have been made to multiple middle schools on the island in the past week, DPS wants the community to know that it will be aggressively investigating these schools and individuals responsible will be prosecuted.

"We want our community to know that the Department of Public Safety will not tolerate any acts of misconduct and will investigate them aggressively. We pledge to identify, apprehend, and prosecute anyone responsible to the fullest extent of the law," said DPS.

DPS is also asking for help from parents and guardians to ensure that their children refrain from making these kinds of threats.

"We request that parents or guardians take proactive measures to monitor their child's online activity. Such acts can cause fear, panic, stress, and disruption to other students, their families, and the campus staff. We ask for your support to help us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone," said DPS.

Over the weekend, DPS was alerted anew about another shooting threat made online this time directed at Hopwood Middle School.

DPS continues to investigate this threat and have even taken precautionary measures by posting police officers outside and inside the campus as of yesterday.

DPS also continues to investigate the bomb threat made at the ChaCha Oceanview Middle School last Thursday.

On Friday, DPS units were posted at the school's entrance to screen everyone entering the campus.

## CREDIT

*From page 1*

of credit between the CNMI government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of $15 million.

Villagomez's House Bill 23-77 authorizes and pledges the funds which MPLT would distribute as interest income to the general fund pursuant to Article 11, Section 6 of the CNMI Constitution as security and for repayment of the $15-million line of credit with the government through the Department of Finance at an annual rate of 5.5%.

Under the legislation, the line of credit and this legislative authorization expire automatically at the end of the 84-month period and shall not be renewed nor extended.

The bill states that the Legislature agrees and consents that MPLT may withhold from its annual interest income distribution to the Commonwealth for each fiscal year as security to guarantee payment for the $15-million line of credit until that credit is retired and fully satisfied.

Among the terms and conditions is that the Office of the Governor and Department of Finance shall repay the line of credit as to any drawdowns no later than 30 calendar days from the date of each drawdown.

Any reimbursements received by the Department of Finance/Office of the Governor from the United States Economic Development Administration paid or remitted to the CNMI government for Capital Improvement Projects advances which are covered in the MPLT-CNMI Revolving Line of Credit shall be paid directly to MPLT as settlement for the line of credit.

Because the Revolving Line of Credit is a public debt, this legislation must be passed by two-thirds of the members of the House and Senate before being signed into law.

The Attorney General shall review the Revolving Line of Credit Agreement for legal sufficiency for the governor and Finance secretary to enter into this transaction.

Last July 17, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in a letter signed by Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Villagomez, submitted a written request, to MPLT.

In that letter, Palacios requested a line of credit in the amount of $20 million for "bridge" financing or advances" for costs related to federally funded CIP from the U.S. Economic Development Administration whereby the CNMI would be reimbursed for such advances within 30 days of advancing such costs for grant projects.

Palacios also requested that MPLT reduce the interest rate on the CNMI's existing debt obligation to MPLT for the Typhoon Yutu loan, currently at 7.5% per annum.

That debt currently stands at approximately $10.7 million as of June 2023 and is being repaid by MPLT's withholding of the annual interest-income distributions to the general fund.

Villagomez stated in the legislation that MPLT has reviewed initial planned drawdown requests by Palacios and has determined that a $15 million line of credit is suitable for the amounts needed, in any given 45-day period, during the next few years of forecasted drawdowns offered by the governor.

## WESTERMAN

*From page 1*

concerned about the issue of People's Republic of China nationals illegally entering Guam from the CNMI.

In his letter to Palacios last Aug. 29, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* last Sunday, Westerman also raised two additional questions to Palacios as follow up to the governor's testimony before the committee's oversight field hearing in Guam that was held at the Hilton Hotel on Aug. 24, 2023.

Westerman said it has been reported that 27 PRC nationals have been caught attempting to enter Guam from the CNMI in the month of June alone.

The chairman asked what Palacios and his team are doing to address this issue and if it has been determined what these individuals were aiming to do once in Guam.

Westerman also asked what Palacios and his administration are doing to diversify the CNMI's economy and become less reliant on the People's Republic of China.

The chairman said Palacios' testimony was extremely helpful in defining the committee's understanding of the issue and appreciate the governor's effort he took to prepare and present the testimony.

According to the Governor's Office, Palacios stated his response last week that the CNMI continues to be very concerned and seriously considers violations against any applicable U.S. laws that prohibit human smuggling or human trafficking.

Palacios said they are working with enforcement representatives and policymakers from federal agencies and the government of Guam to see how they can address and eliminate unauthorized entries of PRC nationals into Guam from the CNMI.

The governor underscored the need to strengthen federal enforcement efforts to help curb these entries, as the resources and legal authority by the Guam and CNMI government are limited.

He also stated that he has had recent meetings with representatives from U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other agencies to expand the dialogue and collaboration with federal enforcement agencies.

"The conversations with federal agencies are also aimed at helping to align local and federal activities to address illegal entries into Guam," Palacios said.

*Saipan Tribune* has yet to get the governor's response to Westerman's question as to what actions are taken to diversify the economy.

Presided over by Westerman, the Aug. 24 hearing examined the importance of U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States to the United States' ability to counter the PRC's influence in the region and maintain the nation's strategic interests in this part of the globe.

## DPL

*From page 1*

Kwan Man, president of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., last Sept. 8.

Santos notified Man that he may appeal, in writing, her decision, to the DPL hearing officer within 30 days of receipt of this notice.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday, Santos said Tinian Dynasty Building & Casino sits on a private land and the only public land leased by HKE is the entryway/driveway estimated at 4.9 hectares.

According to DPL's notice of termination, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the DPL Tinian Regional Office has completed its on-site inspection and audit of the premises leased by HKE and associated records.

Santos stated in the notice that DPL's inspection and audit revealed that HKE is in default of the terms and conditions of their lease agreement dated as of March 19, 1996, as extended for an additional term of 15 years.

Santos said pursuant to the lease, HKE shall automatically be in default of the lease if the company shall fail to pay any installment of rent required to be paid within 90 days after the due date under the lease terms.

She said per Article 17 of the lease, upon the occurrence of any event of default, DPL may terminate the lease.

The secretary said HKE failed to pay annual rent required to be paid under the lease by failing to make timely payments on its lease rental account beginning June 1, 2016.

Santos said based on their records, HKE owes DPL $161,170 in annual rent and interest fees for the period beginning June 1, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2023.

"As a result, all lessee's right under the lease (including but not necessarily limited to lessee's right to use the premises) are terminated pursuant to Article 16 (default)," the secretary told Man.

Santos said upon termination, DPL may, upon 15 days written notice, enter into the premises and take possession of all buildings, fixtures, and improvements and evict HKE without liability of trespass.

HKE had been accused by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in 2013 of violating anti-money laundering protocols under the Bank Secrecy Act. The company, however, signed a non-prosecution forfeiture agreement of $3.04 million and as a result, the case was dismissed in July of 2015.

In June 2015, HKE was levied with a record $75 million in civil penalty for money laundering.

In February 2018, Chun Wai Chan, a corporate representative of both HKE and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015, and had not generated any income since its hotel halted operation in March 2016.

Mega Stars then-served as management of Tinian Dynasty.

Chan also disclosed to the court that the total outstanding liabilities of Tinian Dynasty has now climbed to over $250 million, excluding the $75 million in civil penalty assessed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network against the company.

Last August, Santos also terminated the lease agreement with the Macau-based Alter City Group Inc., which acquired a lease of a 152-hectare public land for its proposed $360-million casino resort on Tinian. She said Alter City Group failed to cure the defaults in the lease agreement.

# Hundreds pack DOL's 2023 Job Fair

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Jobseekers line up outside Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall during the Department of Labor's 2023 Job Fair last Thursday.

**By CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Department of Labor saw one of the largest turnouts during the 2023 Job Fair, as hundreds of jobseekers flooded Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan last Friday.

"It is only my first year, but team members who've been here for 20-30 plus years said that this is one of the biggest crowds they've ever experienced especially in the last three years," said Labor Secretary Leila Staffler.

With crowds gathered outside the Hibiscus Hall nearly two hours before opening, the line was already snaking around the hotel to the opening of the Terrace Buffet when the event began at 9am.

The queue continued throughout the morning as individuals lined up and hundreds packed the venue itself.

Staffler shared that the amount of people that showed up at the event just goes to show people's genuine interest in looking for work.

"It's amazing the response from the community and I'm just so grateful that we can put an event together that would help people possibly find their future work."

Because of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' touchback rule, this year's job fair was also doubly important for employers, according to Staffler.

"It's definitely a response to assist them through the transition period when they might lose a worker. We hope that they will invest in local workers so they don't have to worry about work visas and all kinds of stuff. But we do understand that there are some skillsets that are really critical that might not be available on island and so we really want to promote our apprenticeship programs and our training programs to help build up the local staff so that they have the skills that are needed, especially in the construction industry. I know that there's a lot of growth to be had, but we have to do something. We can't just say we have a problem and not address it."

She added that Labor is actually doing its best to align programs, so businesses can find the skilled workers they need.

The 2023 Job Fair had 31 employers/companies present and nine information booths on certification courses and programs.

Triple J Saipan's Ana Olaes was excited about the turnout and hoped to eventually hire new employees from the event.

"This is a successful event. There's a lot of people, and we believe that we can fill in those positions that we are really looking for. This is going to be a big help especially now with the upcoming touchback…I'm sure that we can find people that will be able to fill those positions that we'll be losing."

Jobseekers Yvonne Somol, Naven Santos, and Nicole Meyers each shared with *Saipan Tribune* their experience during the 2023 Job Fair.

Somol said for her the event was definitely helpful, especially as she had gone to the job fair unsure if they were looking for experienced and qualified individuals.

For Meyers, she said she had gone to the job fair looking not only for new work opportunities, but also to see what other fields piqued her interest.

Santos, for his part, said he was pretty open to any job opportunities available, but after attending the job fair, he was happy that he found several vacancies that he was interested in. "All in all it was great experience," he said.

## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes: 08/11/22, 05/02/23, and 07/31/23

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
a. Financial Statements NMHC/CDBG-DR
b. Division Updates

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**
a. CDBG-DR Updates
b. By-Laws
c. Audit Status Update
d. NMHC Employee Handbook
e. Travel Reports from January 2023 to August 2023
f. Updated – Division SOPs

**V. NEW BUSINESS**
a. None

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
a. Personnel

**VIII.OTHER MATTERS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

***"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"***

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

# PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 09/19/23

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after October 05, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

| Project/Activity Type | Purpose | Location | Total Project Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) 200-foot new replacement tower project. | Replacement of tower | Mt. Tapochau, Saipan | Approximately $1,883,100.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used. |

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com ; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **October 04, 2023, 4:30 p.m.** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
**Arnold I. Palacios**
**Governor of the CNMI**

**DPL-MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SUMMIT** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/

The 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently held a summit with the Department of Public Lands regarding the Chalan Kanoa Children's Playground siting permit/CNMI Farmers Open Farmers' Market designation/Saipan Municipality designation, and Gani Islands Village and Agricultural Homestead Parcelling. From left, former representative William Torres, DPL special assistant to the secretary David C. Sablan, DPL Planning director Pat Rasa, council vice chair Tonie M. Tudela, council chair Marian DLG. Tudela, DPL Secretary Terry Santos, and council secretary Carmen C. Pangelinan.

# JKPL calls on all trick-or-treaters

It's that time of the year and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Northern Marianas Library Association and all community partners invite you everyone to join them for the 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat event. Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and provides families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door. This spooktacular event is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2023 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. This year, the JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest.

JKPL will also have the return of People's Choice Award for Best Community Trunk. In the People's Choice Awards last year, Saipan Cubs Alpha Leo Club won first place, Priority Care Services won second Place, and Coca-Cola Beverage Micronesia won third Place. Which spooky trunk will be voted this year's People's Choice? Interested community partners and/or sponsors are invited to register a trunk or sponsor this year's event by emailing foremancelina@gmail.com, calling the library at 670-235-7315 for 2023 TOT Coordinator Celina or by picking up a registration and/or sponsorship form at your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JKPL welcomes and encourages businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, JKPL is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit (ETC). Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, please remit to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

Please enjoy the public library's free resources by visiting their website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupublicliblrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupublicliblrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit the website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for the community. For more information regarding any of their activities, please contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318.

JKPL's hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-6pm, and Saturday 10am-4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays. Closed for JKPL Austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 16 and 30, 2023.

JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **MVA Conference Room.**

## MEETING AGENDA

**1) Preliminary Matters**
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. August 23, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

**2) Public Comments**

**3) Committee Reports**
- a. Finance Committee
  - i. Fund Status
  - ii. Reprogramming of Funds
  - iii. FY24 Budget Update

**4) Old Business**

**5) New Business**
- a. Tour Guide Certification Program- Status Update
- b. Markets Update
  - i. Japan
  - ii. Korea

**6) Executive Session**

**7) Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- a. Correspondence
- b. Other
- c. Next Regular Board Meeting

**8) Adjournment**

/s/Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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**Commonwealth of the Nortern Marianas Islands**
## STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 10007 I Saipan, MP 96950 I Phone: (670) 664-1712
Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp

**VISION:** *"To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."*

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, Section 11(a), the CNMI State Workforce Development Board hereby gives notice that it will hold its Program Year (PY) 2023 1st Quarter General Membership meeting on Friday, September 22, 2023 from 12:00PM – 2:00PM at the Aqua Resort Club Taga Room.

## AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 22, 2023
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2023
V. Public Comments
VI. Reports
  a. Executive Committee
  b. Planning, Assessment, & Evaluation Committee
  c. Policy & Procedure Committee
  d. Program Committee
  e. Core Partners
VII. New Business
  a. Eligible Training Provider Applications
  b. Proposed and Amended Policies
VIII. Announcements
IX. Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

/s/ **Velma Ann Palacios Chairperson**

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
Individuals who require accommodations are requested to contact the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency at 670.664.1758 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure the availability of the requested accommodation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**
The public is welcome to comment on any agenda item. Public comments may be made by:
- Email to cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp an hour before the meeting start time. The subject line shall identify the date of the meeting followed by the agenda item being addressed.
- Oral testimonies in-person at the meeting.

Timely submission of public comments will be read aloud during the public comment segment of the agenda and made available to the public in compliance with Public Law 8-41.

This publication is supported by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor as part of Program Year 2021 award totaling $1,537,732 with zero percent (0%) financed from non-governmental sources.

**MISSION:** *Empowering, integrating, implementing, and innovating the workforce needs of the CNMI."*

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 03, 2023, **Eusebio C. Borja & Margarita C. Borja, parents of Rose B. Fields, a NMHC Housing Specialist, and Michael W. Fields, a CDBG-DR Infrastructure Construction Specialist**, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and are intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and are applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. & Mrs. Fields are not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.:(670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **Friday, September 29, 2023.**

Dated this 12th day of September, 2023.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

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Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
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Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602
Saipan, MP 96950
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Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Oscar C. Torres

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:** | ] | Civil Action No.: 23-0172-CV |
| **MARIANO CAMACHO TORRES,** Decedent. | ] | **NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE TO CREDITORS** |

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: MARIANO CAMACHO TORRES**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Oscar C. Torres for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 5th day of October, 2023, at 10:00a.m, at Room 220, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, **MARIANO CAMACHO TORRES**, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 12th day of September, 2023.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

---

Name: Primitiva C. Deleon Guerrero
Address: P.O. Box 7507 SVRB
Phone: (670) 287-4419

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct: Primitiva C. Deleon Guerrero Petitioner(s) | : | FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0361 **NOTICE OF HEARING** |

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 1, 2023, at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

# MCS' Hong is National Merit Scholarship semifinalist

Mount Carmel School congratulates and proudly recognizes one of its students, Eunkyu "Joey" Hong, for being selected as a semifinalist—the only one from the CNMI—for the esteemed National Merit Scholarship Program.

Hong

The NMSP is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955. Students throughout the US enter the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Amongst a pool of 1.3 million student entrants, the NMSP selected 16,000 outstanding students to be semifinalists. Hong and the rest of the semifinalist cohort now have the opportunity to be awarded 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly $28 million that will be offered next spring.

According to the NMSP in a recent press release, "about 95% of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title."

Upon hearing the news, Hong said "I am honored to have made it this far in the process and am grateful to all my teachers and my parents for supporting me in my studies. Being a semifinalist reaffirms to me that hard work matters and nays off."

School administrators were also eager to celebrate Hong's accomplishment with MCS principal Filmah Buenaflor saying "we are tremendously proud of Joey for his efforts to pursue such a prestigious achievement. We hope that he continues moving forward in the selection process as he continually proves to be a motivated and capable student—a true exemplar of a Knight."

The NMSP will deliberate in the coming months and will formally announce the National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists in February 2024. MCS wishes the best of luck to Hong and the many other qualified student semifinalists for this year's cohort of the NMSP. ***(PR)***

# Castro appointed to WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee

Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) has been appointed to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Legislative Advisory Committee after last week attending its annual meeting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Legislative Advisory Committee members Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan), left, and Rep. Mark Sanford of North Dakota.

LAC's 16 members work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all residents of the West. The WICHE commissioners created the LAC in 1995 to inform the commission and staff about significant legislative issues related to higher education in the region.

WICHE organized was formally in 1951 as an intentional collaboration between state governments in the West and launched an embryonic program of activities in 1953.

WICHE has continuously and effectively served one mission: to expand access to high-quality higher education to the citizens of the West. In 2012 and under the leadership of then Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart the CNMI was the first to join WICHE under the shared Pacific Islands membership open to all U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. The CNMI has partnered with and benefited from WICHE through regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation.

"We owe a great amount of thanks to Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, the late governor Eloy S. Inos, the late CNMI Scholarship Office (CSO) administrator Rose S. Pangelinan, our CNMI WICHE commissioner NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) and many others, for their vision and effort during the initial stages of this meaningful program, their work has help save CNMI families thousands of dollars in tuition cost, provide better opportunities and transform lives," said Castro.

In 2001 at the age of 14, Castro graduated from Hopwood Junior High School and made the difficult choice of moving to Oregon to further his education.

"At that time, we did not have programs like WICHE, back then to obtain a better college tuition rate, many of us had to move to the U.S. mainland prior to completing high school. It was a difficult choice, but for every difficult choice there is a reward either immediate or long-term, and if it was not for that struggle, I would not be here in Arizona sitting at the table meeting with other state legislators engaging in the discussion of higher education issues and strategizing for interstate/territory collaboration," he said.

The CNMI's No. 1 asset is human capital (our people), according to Castro.

"With our small and fragile island economy we cannot afford to be complacent, we must continue to synergize efforts and improve outcomes," he said.

WICHE provides strong return on investment for the CNMI:

■ CNMI residents saved $1.3 million in 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities.

■ In 2019-20 WICHE Student Access Programs provided the CNMI a 735% return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.

■ CNMI students and their families have saved $3.5 million since beginning by participating in WUE.

■ The Master Property Program (MPP) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. The MPP includes more than 170 campuses with total insured values of over $100 billion. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

# Superman Corp. faces $73K in penalties for one willful and two serious violations

**DEDEDO, Guam**—Two weeks after federal workplace safety inspectors warned the operator of a Tamuning construction company of hazardous conditions facing employees working in an excavation, they returned to find the company again exposing workers to potentially deadly trench hazards as they installed a sewer line at the Paradise Court subdivision in Mangilao.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Superman Corp. after a May 2023 inspection for two serious violations related to the company's failures to provide adequate means to enter and exit the trench within 25 feet of the workers and test oxygen levels in the trench before employees entered.

OSHA also cited the company with a willful violation after the agency determined Allen Kim, president of Superman Corp., failed to provide required protection from cave-ins for employees working in an excavation. Investigators learned Kim was trained previously on trenching and trench safety and had been warned repeatedly of related hazards by peers and engineers that visited the site before OSHA's inspection. In addition, Kim admitted to safety officers that he was aware that motorized equipment operating near the trench was causing debris to fall in the trench and that the equipment's vibrations increased the risk of collapse.

Superman Corp. faces $73,219 in proposed penalties for the violations.

"Working in a trench is demanding and dangerous work that requires specific precautions and protections to keep workers safe," explained OSHA Area Office Director Roger Forstner in Honolulu. "By running soil compactors and excavators within 20 feet of workers in the trench and failing to provide accessible ladders, Superman Corp. chose to put production before safety, endangering the lives of its employees."

Trench collapses are among the serious dangers in the construction industry. Excavations can collapse in seconds and can potentially bury workers under cubic yards of soil, each weighing as much as 3,000 lbs. In 2022, OSHA reported that at least 39 industry workers died. From 2011 to 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 166 workers died in trench collapses.

OSHA has a National Emphasis Program on trenching and excavations. Trenching standards require protective systems in trenches deeper than 5 feet. Additionally, trenches must be inspected by a knowledgeable person and have a safe means of entering and exiting prior to allowing a worker to enter.

Based in Tamuning, Guam, Superman Corp. is a general contractor that specializes in multi-family residential construction projects.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. ***(PR)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# GOP hunt for 'rogue' prosecutors is attack on democracy

Georgia is just one of many states in which Republican leaders have tried to throw out district attorneys elected in big cities where Democrats dominate. Florida, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana and other states with Republican governors or Republican-majority legislatures are disenfranchising urban voters by stripping them of their power to elect their own prosecutors and set their own criminal justice agendas. It is not particularly surprising that much of the voting power they're stealing—and many of the elected D.A.s they are targeting—are Black.

But the Georgia effort is particularly enlightening because it is targeting Fani Willis, the Fulton County district attorney who is prosecuting the ex-president and current candidate Donald Trump and 18 others for their alleged roles in attempting to overturn Trump's 2020 reelection defeat. State Sen. Clint Dixon (R-Buford) branded Willis' indictments a "witch hunt" and said he would file a complaint against her with a new commission with authority to remove her when it convenes for the first time next month.

To his credit, Brian Kemp, the state's Republican governor, has declined to support the move against Willis. But the law he signed earlier this year allows the new Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission—some of whose members Kemp appointed—to question Willis' prosecutorial decisions and impose "involuntary retirement." Dixon and others dispense with the usual public safety pretext for ousting so-called rogue D.A.s and come very close to admitting that their motive in targeting Willis is political.

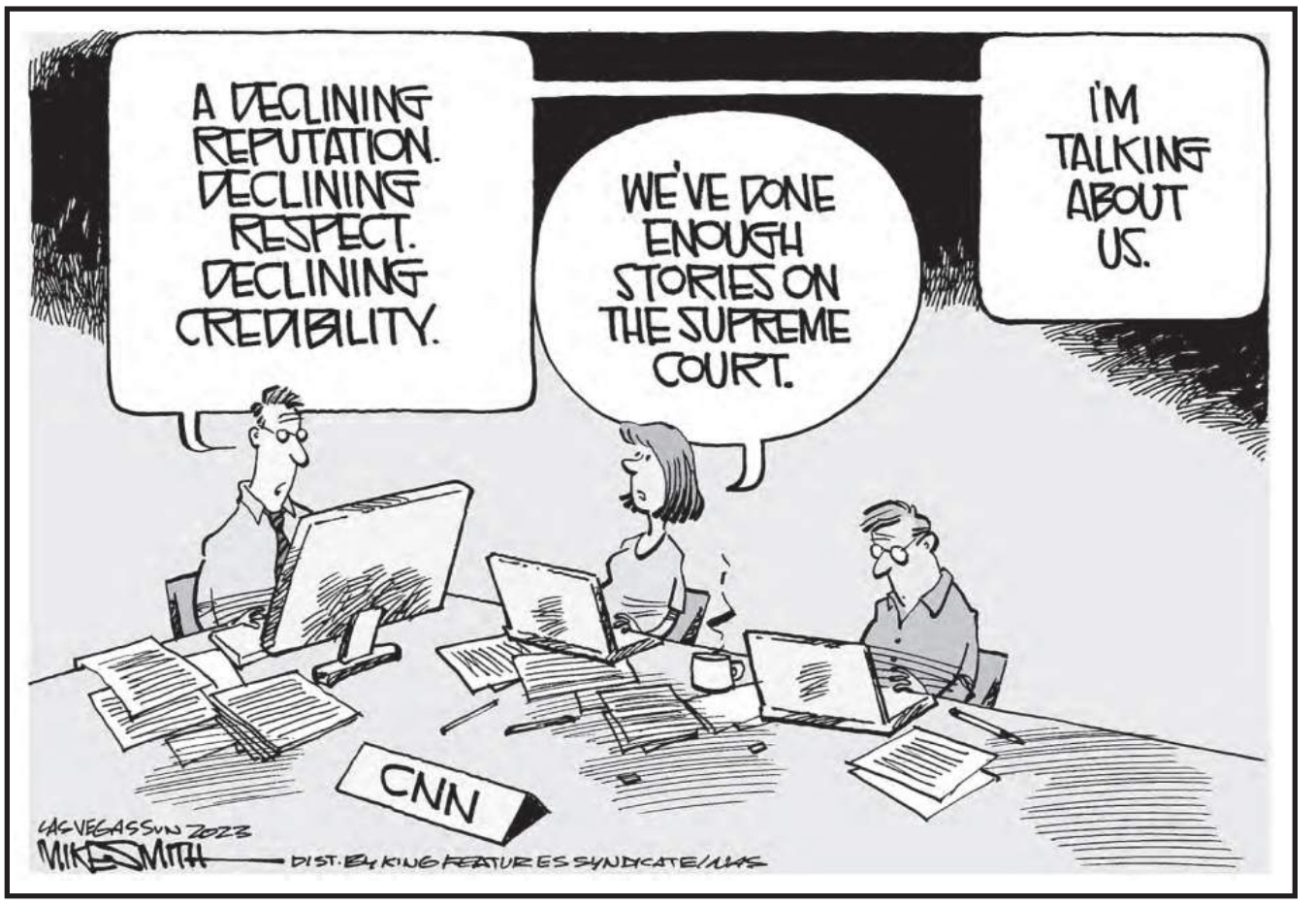
Which of course it is, as is virtually every democracy-crushing move by Republican statehouses to throw out elected prosecutors and silence voters who support them. This trend includes Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' recent groundless removal of State Atty. Monique Worrell, elected by voters in a district that includes Orlando, purportedly for not being aggressive enough in prosecutions. ("State attorney" and "district attorney" describe identical or similar offices in different states.) It includes the governor's similar removal of Andrew Warren, the elected prosecutor from the district that includes Tampa, and DeSantis' predecessor stripping power from Aramis Ayala, the elected prosecutor who preceded Worrell.

It's the same story in Pennsylvania, where the Republican-dominated legislature tried to impeach Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner. And in Missouri, where a bill that would have allowed state officials to throw out St. Louis' D.A. was amended to extend that power over all D.A.'s, so the anti-urban, anti-Democrat, anti-Black power grab wouldn't look quite so obvious. It's the same story, too, in a dozen other states that recently passed similar laws, ostensibly to protect voters from themselves.

Republicans for a time were leaders in the criminal justice reform movement, drawing on Christian values of redemption and fair play and conservative principles of limited government and economic discipline. Trump never signed on with the conservative Right on Crime effort, whose proponents included Newt Gingrich and other prominent Republicans. As president, though, Trump briefly aligned himself with reforms like more humane sentences when he signed the bipartisan First Step Act, a 2018 law improving federal sentencing practices.

But there was never a sec-

*See GOP on Page 9*


A DECLINING REPUTATION. DECLINING RESPECT. DECLINING CREDIBILITY.
WE'VE DONE ENOUGH STORIES ON THE SUPREME COURT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT US.
CNN
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/HEARST

# We're headed for a government shutdown

**By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN**
Bloomberg Opinion

*Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University, he wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.*

Get ready. We're headed for a government shutdown, quite possibly a long one, probably beginning on Oct. 1.

Nothing is ever certain, and it takes very little for Congress to avoid a shutdown—just a short bill extending funding after the annual spending bills expire at the end of September. But House Republicans are far too dysfunctional to produce anything like that. Right now they can't even manage to pass their own version of spending bills, let alone something that the Democratic majority in the Senate would pass and President Joe Biden would sign.

Extended government shutdowns—longer than a long weekend—don't happen by accident or because good-faith negotiations don't get done by the deadline. Extended government shutdowns only happen when the group with the votes or the leverage to make it happen want a shutdown.

Right now, the more extreme conservatives among House Republican are threatening a shutdown if they don't get their way. It's true that a "clean" spending extension bill that would keep the government running while negotiations continue would almost certainly pass the House and easily pass the Senate. For that matter, the bipartisan annual spending bills that the Senate is passing would also almost certainly pass in the House. But while the extremists—members of the House Freedom Caucus and others—don't have the votes, they do have the leverage. They're threatening to oust Kevin McCarthy from his position as speaker if he brings those bills to the House floor. McCarthy believes they're serious and is willing to go to great lengths to appease them, whatever the costs to his party and the nation.

That's where McCarthy's announcement of the impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden comes in. It's going nowhere but could easily rally Democrats around Biden while making things tough for House Republicans in competitive districts. Appeasing the hard-liners means championing deep spending cuts for popular government programs even though the final spending bills will almost certainly be the bipartisan Senate versions.

And it means a shutdown.

How long? That's difficult to predict. There have only been three extended government shutdowns in U.S. history. The first, in 1995, was 21 days. (1) A 2013 shutdown lasted 16 days, and a third started in December 2018 and dragged into January 2019, for an epic 35 days. Unlike the threat of a government default brought on by debt limit crises, the damage from shutdowns, both in terms of economic harm and personal inconvenience, starts small and builds slowly over time. It's one thing for tourists to lose out on trips to national parks or federally-run museums. It's another when backlogs start piling up for the many things that need government action to proceed, from environmental impact statements to patents to non-essential—but still important—court cases. Over time, constituents put pressure on their representatives to get something done—and over time, polling usually makes it clear which party is suffering more, which is usually the party that started the shutdown in the first place. (2)

McCarthy is trying to come up with a temporary extension that's loaded with enough goodies that the Freedom Caucus and its allies will support, while also trying to cajole moderate Republicans into voting for it. Given the thin GOP margin in the House, he'll need almost unanimous support from Republicans for a bill that no Democrats will vote for. But even if he manages to get that done in the two-plus weeks remaining it will be dead on arrival in the Senate. That means that to keep the government running McCarthy would have to accept the Senate's terms, cross his far-right flank, and risk his job.

The problem is that the extremist faction of House Republicans isn't looking for a better deal. They're going to oppose any deal that Biden agrees to (and perhaps even any deal that Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell supports). Meanwhile, if the first rule of shutdowns is that they only happen when one side wants it, the second rule is that shutdown showdowns always end with something supported by the speaker of the House, the Senate majority leader, and the president. When that happens — when McCarthy supports a bill that passes the Democratic-majority Senate and is signed by Biden — McCarthy (or his successor, for that matter) will be attacked as a sell-out who surrendered while on the brink of victory.

The good news is the basic outlines of a deal are easy to see. Biden and both parties in both chambers already agreed to the basic spending levels back in June when they passed the debt limit increase. The Senate is therefore moving ahead with bipartisan bills enacting that deal and should easily exceed the 60 votes needed to defeat filibusters and pass their legislation. But no one can force the House to go along, and they don't seem anywhere close to it right now, or have any obvious way of getting from here to there without first inflicting a lot of pain.

*(1) The 1995 shutdown was sparked by Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich's mistaken belief that President Bill Clinton would fold if pushed and was actually a two-party sequence, with a five-day November shutdown followed by 21 more days in December.*
*(2) That has been the Republicans in each of the three previous extended shutdowns. Senate Democrats were responsible for a short three-day shutdown in 2018, with two of those being weekend days before they realized it was futile and caved.*

# OpenAI is a billion-dollar company. Writers deserve more for their contribution to its success

**By DIYA SABHARWAL**
Los Angeles Times

*Mehnaaz Momen is the author of the forthcoming book "Listening to Laredo: A Border City in a Globalized Age."*

Last month, it was reported that OpenAI—the company behind the generative AI chatbot ChatGPT—was on track to make $1 billion in revenue this year from user subscriptions and by licensing its technology to other companies. ChatGPT was introduced into the world only last November, and its explosive growth shows the demand for AI-powered chatbots and their potential to transform lives.

But there are still pressing ethical issues that need to be addressed, such as, what do AI companies owe to the creators whose work informs their chatbots?

Generative AI chatbots, which can conduct human-like conversations and generate unique written responses to prompts from users, are taught to communicate using writing samples from hundreds of thousands of writers whose work is available on the web. Even though the written work is publicly available, much of it is protected under copyright law.

According to OpenAI, ChatGPT doesn't produce plagiarized outputs — it only learns from the ideas of the books and articles on which it is trained to produce unique content. That OpenAI could become a billion-dollar corporation by using human writers' work to train its artificial intelligence machine does not sit well with many creators. And some writers are asking for compensation for their contributions, as well as ways to opt out of having their data used in this way.

Writers are concerned for a couple of reasons, according to Lila Shroff, a tech ethics and policy fellow at Stanford University. They feel exploited as their painstaking intellectual labor has been used without their permission. And using their data, AI could eventually replace them by automating the writing process. One of the main demands of the Hollywood writers' strike has been for the establishment of a contract that protects writers from losing their jobs to artificial intelligence.

While Congress is alarmed by AI's unconstrained, meteoric rise in the last year, lawmakers find it hard to regulate. Federal authorities have been slow to keep up because AI is such a new technology and is advancing at breakneck pace. Lawmakers are also ill-equipped to deal with the AI boom because most do not have a technical background and struggle to understand the mechanisms by which AI technologies work. But it is clear there need to be laws and regulations to ensure that technological advancement takes shape in a way that is fair.

Although AI chatbots are not good enough yet to completely eliminate the need for writers, they are well on their way. If you ask ChatGPT to generate an article in the "voice" of any writer, it can do so convincingly and will even send back pointers on why it believes its output is similar to the style of the person being requested. The list of writers it can mimic includes not only acclaimed authors, such as Margaret Atwood and Zadie Smith, but also lesser-known bloggers and emerging voices who have published material on the web—even members of The Times' editorial board.

I tried experimenting with this by plugging in the names of friends and colleagues and asking ChatGPT to generate short essays in their "voice" based on whatever it knew about them. When I showed the subjects the results, they were impressed and creeped out. Editorial writer Carla Hall, on seeing a ChatGPT-generated article in her voice and under her byline, remarked: "This is kinda wild! I started reading it thinking, 'Wait, what? When did I write this?' But then I thought, 'No this doesn't sound like anything I've written.' And yet, I could have written the lead sentence."

How does an AI seem to know them so well? Will this be part of a writer's life in the 21st century—knowing that AI will learn your voice and continue to generate material in it for all posterity? Or, as Atwood put it, will writers stand to be, in a manner of speaking, "murdered by their [AI] replicas"?

At least two groups of authors, including Mona Awad and Paul Tremblay and comedian Sarah Silverman, have filed copyright infringement lawsuits against OpenAI. Silverman's group alleges that OpenAI has fed ChatGPT with copyrighted books to "profit richly" from them. Each group seeks nearly $1 billion in damages.

While technological progress is a matter to celebrate, we need to ensure that this technology is created with guardrails to protect both its users and the creators of the content that the AI was trained on.

To see what ChatGPT had to say about this, I pasted the text of my essay into it and asked the chatbot to respond to my argument in its own words. Here is what it had to say:

"The growth and success of AI, like ChatGPT demonstrate the boundless potential of technology, but it also underscores the importance of ensuring that the rights and efforts of creators are respected and compensated. In our quest for progress, it's crucial that we don't leave our ethical compass behind. There's a need for a balanced dialogue between AI developers and the creators who unintentionally fuel them, ensuring that the benefits of this technology are widely shared without trampling on individual rights."

# In pursuit of impeachment, GOP revives lies about Joe Biden and Ukraine corruption

**By TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the* The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Ronald Reagan famously used the phrase, "There you go again," to imply that his Democratic opponents were full of bull and hyperbole.

I can't think of a more appropriate response to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's decision to pursue an impeachment investigation into President Joe Biden, in a desperate attempt to throw MAGA House members a bone so they won't try to shut down government funding in September. Without a shred of credible evidence, the GOP will be fishing for an excuse to impeach Biden for allegedly profiting from his son's questionable international ventures.

But what really puts the "again" in Republican efforts to "go there" is this: The GOP is reviving debunked claims that Biden was involved in corruption in Ukraine in 2014 and 2015, during the time his son Hunter was on the board of an energy company there called Burisma.

In fact, just the opposite was true. Biden was fighting corruption in Ukraine, while former President Donald Trump was encouraging it, making his infamous phone call to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that demanded the Ukrainian leader dig up dirt on the Bidens and Burisma. That phone call triggered Trump's (first) impeachment.

Yet House Republicans now want to turn the Burisma scandal on its head. They want to revive Trump's fake "facts" about Biden and Burisma—and use them as a basis to impeach the president. So let me remind you of what actually went down with Burisma—of which I wrote about extensively—and which lays bare the utter sham of the latest impeachment effort.

In 2019, Trump claimed that Biden had gotten "a very good" Ukrainian prosecutor general named Viktor Shokin fired three years earlier because he was investigating Burisma, and Biden wanted to protect his board member son. Trump sent his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to Ukraine to dig up dirt on Biden's "corruption."

In fact, it was Shokin who was corrupt, as I was told at the time by Daria Kaleniuk, executive director of the nonprofit Anticorruption Action Centre in Kyiv. She was—and remains—one of Ukraine's best-known corruption fighters. "Giuliani and Trump paid tribute to very corrupt prosecutors who were undermining reforms," she told me by phone in October 2019. "These were very, very bad guys whom we were fighting hard."

Kaleniuk laughed when asked about Trump's charges that Biden forced out Shokin to protect Hunter. On the contrary, she told me, Shokin showed "no interest" in prosecuting Burisma, and refused even to send evidence to a British court investigating the company. "Everyone knew Shokin was corrupt and protecting a corrupt system."

Added Brian Bonner, then-editor of the Kyiv Post, which investigated the Burisma story, "Prosecutor Shokin had to go because he was not doing much on corruption. He was unwilling to prosecute Burisma." No surprise, Trump turned the truth upside down.

As for Biden's threat to withhold $1 billion in U.S. loan guarantees if Shokin wasn't fired: "We were applauding Biden for doing so," said Kaleniuk. Biden—along with the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch—was encouraging the Ukrainians to prosecute corruption within Burisma, despite Hunter Biden's role at the company.

Yet, no surprise, Trump fired corruption fighter Yovanovitch and strong-armed Zelenskyy—all in an effort to defame Biden. And the GOP misuse of the Burisma scandal still hasn't stopped.

In the run-up to McCarthy's decision on the impeachment inquiry, MAGA supporters have worked feverishly on right-wing media to transform the truth about Shokin's corruption into praise for the prosecutor.

On Aug. 28, Fox News spent hours promoting its "exclusive" interview with prosecutor Shokin, in which he claimed Biden got him fired in 2016 because he, Shokin, was investigating Burisma.

With MAGA encouragement, such fake news never dies.

Totally uninformed, or totally dishonest, U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, R.-La., who sits on the House Judiciary Committee, told Fox & Friends that the Shokin interview should be on "every news outlet in America" and that Shokin should be invited to testify before Congress.

You get the picture of how any GOP impeachment inquiry will proceed.

The latest effort to smear Biden with Burisma corruption claims involves an anonymous, unverified allegation that the president and his son each accepted a $5 million bribe from a Burisma official. Never mind that this claim was debunked in congressional testimony by Devon Archer, who sat on the Burisma board along with Hunter. It was even dismissed by Lev Parnas, one of Giuliani's Ukrainian informants tasked with digging up dirt on Biden.

The lack of any proof won't matter, however, to those who keep promoting Burisma lies.

None of this is to say that Hunter Biden's use of his father's name to get board seats or business deals passes the smell test.

Yet Hunter is a piker compared with Trump's offspring, whose father's name helped them rake in untold millions as they pursued global deals and sold luxury condos during his presidency. Nothing beats the decision by a Saudi Arabian fund run by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to invest $2 billion in a fledgling firm run by son-in-law Jared Kushner, despite objections from the fund's advisers. Payback for past favors or investment in future Trump goodwill?

So if dodgy deals by presidential kids are the issue, there is plenty of material to work with beyond Hunter. But the main issue here is not about that. It is about the "there you go again" GOP resurrection of lies about Biden and Ukraine. And about whether any House Republicans have the guts to stand up for the truth.

## GOP

*From page 8*

ond step, because after the murder of George Floyd and the sometimes violent protests that followed, Trump reverted to the tough-on-crime rhetoric that characterized much of his career as a public figure. His political acolytes and underlings fell into line—and shrewdly portrayed themselves as protectors of public safety in the face of progressive prosecutors and "woke" policies that are meant to correct longstanding flaws in the criminal justice system, such as unnecessarily extreme sentences, racial bias in plea bargaining and bail, and lax prosecution of serious police misconduct.

Local voters who want these reform policies elect D.A.s that promote them. Those that don't, don't. Moves like the new law in Georgia and DeSantis' removals in Florida eliminate those choices.

The dangers posed by this anti-democratic movement are manifold. Most obviously, it virtually erases the voting power of a wide swath of voters, chiefly those who are Democrats, urban dwellers or Black. It robs them just as surely as intimidation at polling places once did, and as partisan gerrymandering still does. It quite literally overturns elections. It insidiously succeeds where Trump and his followers fell short following their 2020 defeat. It undermines confidence in American institutions, in elections, in the value of voting. It turns every core function of democracy into a politically partisan battle.

Trump was indicted in part because of his Jan. 2, 2021, phone call to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, demanding that the Georgia official "find" him enough votes to secure a different outcome. Georgia remains the battleground—one of them, anyway—in this Republican attack on democracy. The attempt to unseat Fani Willis—or Monique Worrell, or Andrew Warren, or Larry Krasner, or numerous others—is merely an alternative way to achieve what rioters in the Capitol were seeking on Jan. 6, 2021.

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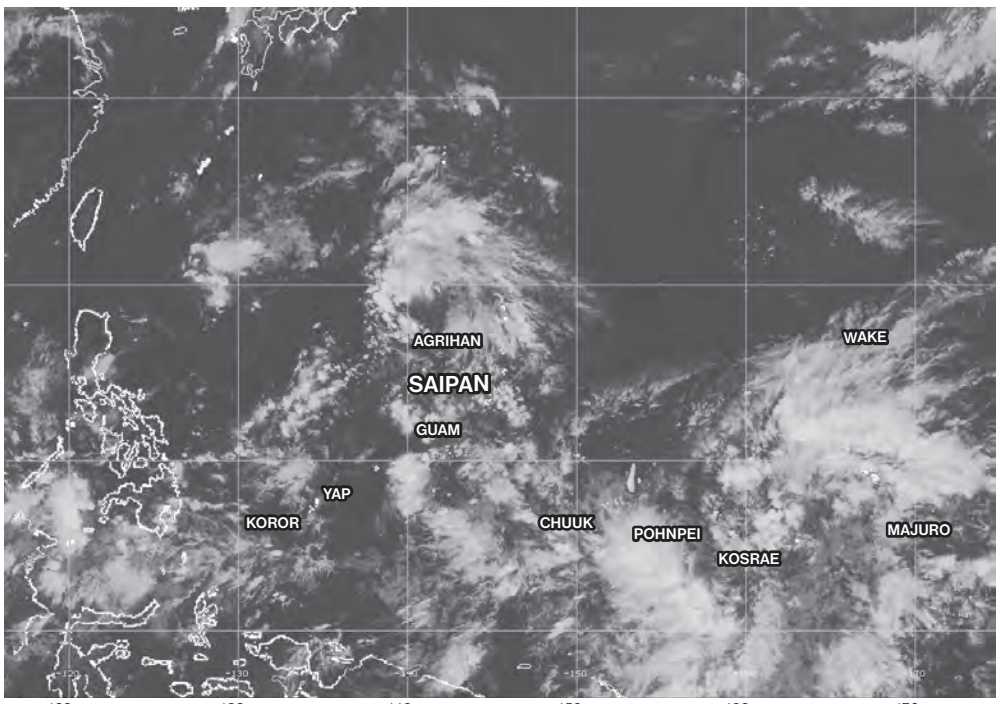
# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. |
| 86° 77° | 89° 79° | 87° 79° | 86° 78° | 86° 78° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:49 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers were over the Marianas this morning. Periods of showers and thunderstorms are expected through the week.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm | 85° / 78° |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 78° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorm | 86° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorm | 88° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorm | 88° / 76° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 80° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 63° / 54° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 77° / 55° |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | 88° / 81° |
| Honolulu | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| London | Windy | 70° / 52° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 64° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 66° / 45° |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 90° / 78° |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | 79° / 65° |
| Osaka | Rain | 82° / 75° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 64° |
| Busan | Rain | 79° / 66° |
| Rome | Thunderstorms | 82° / 64° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 94° / 71° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 67° / 52° |
| Seoul | Rain | 73° / 61° |
| Tokyo | Rain | 72° / 70° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 69° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:05 AM | 6:16 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:05 AM | 6:15 PM |
| Thursday | 6:05 AM | 6:14 PM |
| Friday | 6:05 AM | 6:13 PM |
| Saturday | 6:06 AM | 6:12 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 9:11 AM | 8:53 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 10:04 AM | 9:36 PM | - |
| Thursday | 11:01 AM | 10:25 PM | - |
| Friday | 12:00 PM | 11:20 PM | - |
| Saturday | 1:01 PM | - | - |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 4:01 AM | Low Tide | 0.33 |
| 10:16 AM | High Tide | 1.75 |
| 4:09 PM | Low Tide | 0.92 |
| 9:40 PM | High Tide | 1.80 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 7:10PM | 7:55PM | 1 up to Sep 4 |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| PR 111 | 7:05AM | 9:05AM | 7 |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily up to Sep 4 |
| UA183 | 7:20PM | 9:10PM | Daily from Sep 5 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:20AM | 6:30AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |
| UA112 | 5:15PM | 6:05PM | 1 up to Sep 4 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| PR110 | 11:40PM | 5:35AM+1 | 6 |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:50AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/625 | 12:05PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35PM | 2:20AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# DFS T-Galleria officially launches Marianas Experience

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

DFS T-Galleria staff and cultural dancers gather for the official launch of the Marianas Experience last Thursday inside the international duty-free store in Garapan.

DFS T-Galleria showcased the sights and sounds of the Marianas following the official launch of the Marianas Experience last Thursday evening in Garapan.

During the launch party, dozens of tourists, community members, and stakeholders not only experienced the different aspects of the Carolinian and Chamorro cultures through live dances and songs, but also through browsing the creative works of local artists, participating in the interactive stations where coconut weaving, mwar-making, and banana leaf art were being taught, and viewing the displays of cultural artifacts and beautiful canoes from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the NMI Museum of History and Culture, 500 Sails, and the Chamolinian Cultural Village.

Marianas Visitors Authority acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh spoke during the event and extended her congratulations to DFS for having this vision. She also extended her gratitude to the international duty-free store for inviting MVA as a partner in the endeavor.

"I think most of us agree it's been one of the best 'yes' for our tourism products this year. Here visitors can see, hear, touch, feel, and taste indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture from our artifacts to our traditional beautiful nature. A couple of hours here interacting with our hospitable people this could very well be the best memory of their visit…we can show our visitors why the Marianas is one of the best places in the world to visit."

Gov. Arnold I Palacios applauded DFS, MVA, and all the other partners in the Marianas Experience.

"We're looking back to see who we are and the essence of who we are as people, the people of this community... it's refreshing and I'm very proud that they are able to launch this," adding that he looks forward to people coming and enjoying the displays.

DFS managing director Richard Gustafson earlier said, "DFS has been a long-time member of the community, and this is just another way to connect with both our local residents and also give tourists to the island a place to go as a destination above and beyond the marine sports activities and other activities to really feel a sense of destination."

Although it had a soft opening back in July, the official launch of the Marianas Experience took place last Thursday, and it would continue from 1pm to 4pm each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Aside from the MVA, Chamorro Carolinian Cultural Village Inc., 500 Sails, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, and NMI Museum of History and Culture, DFS' Marianas Experience is also in partnership with Bridge Capital LLC, Team PDI, CCVI Canoe Federation, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, cultural dancers Petlas and Simiyan Marianas, LLC, and KKMP.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

A booth on mwar-making at DFS T-Galleria's Marianas Experience.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The flying Proa was one of the must-sees during the Marianas Experience.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Local artists finally had their opportunity to show and peddle their wares during the official launch of the Marianas Experience.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The booth of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at the Marianas Experience

## First two cargo ships arrive in Ukrainian port after Russia's exit from grain deal

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Two cargo ships arrived in one of Ukraine's ports over the weekend, using a temporary Black Sea corridor established by Kyiv following Russia's withdrawal from a wartime agreement designed to ensure safe grain exports from the invaded country's ports.

Two Palau-flagged bulk carriers, Aroyat and Resilient Africa, docked Saturday at the seaport of Chornomorsk in the southern Odesa region, according to an online statement by the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. The vessels are the first civilian cargo ships to reach one of the Odesa ports since Russia exited the grain deal.

Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's deputy prime minister, said in an online statement Saturday that the two ships will be delivering some 20,000 tons of wheat to countries in Africa and Asia.

For months, Ukraine, whose economy is heavily dependent on farming, was able to safely export its grain from Black Sea ports under a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey to ensure safe shipments. But Russia withdrew from the deal on July 17, with Kremlin officials arguing their demands for the facilitation of Russian food and fertilizer shipments had not been met.

Following the withdrawal, the Russian Defense Ministry said it would regard any vessels in the Black Sea headed to Ukrainian ports as military targets.

Since then, Kyiv has sought to reroute transport through the Danube River, and road and rail links into Europe. But transport costs that way are much higher. Some European countries have balked at the consequential local grain prices, and the Danube ports can't handle the same volume as seaports.

The interim corridor in the Black Sea, which Kyiv has asked the International Maritime Organization to ratify, was opened on Aug. 10 as United States and Ukrainian officials warned of possible Russian attacks on civilian vessels. Sea mines also make the voyage risky, and ship insurance costs are likely to be high for operators.

## Erdogan says Turkey may part ways with the EU

**ISTANBUL** (AP)—President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday that Turkey may part ways with the European Union, implying that the country is thinking about ending its bid to join the 27-nation bloc.

"The EU is making efforts to sever ties with Turkey," he told reporters before departing for the 78th U.N. General Assembly in New York.

"We will evaluate the situation, and if needed we will part ways with the EU."

He was responding to a question about a recent report adopted by the European Parliament, which stated "the accession process cannot resume under the current circumstances, and calls on EU to explore 'a parallel and realistic framework' for EU-Türkiye relations."

Turkey applied to join the European Union in 1999, and accession talks began in 2005. Accession negotiations were frozen in 2018 because of "democratic backsliding," according to the European Parliament.

Erdogan's statement on Saturday came more than a week after Turkey's foreign minister affirmed his country's resolve to join the EU and urged the bloc to take courageous steps to advance its bid.

# Nation

## Supreme Court redistricting ruling gave hope to Black voters

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Supreme Court's decision siding with Black voters in an Alabama redistricting case gave Democrats and voting rights activists a surprising opportunity before the 2024 elections.

New congressional maps would have to include more districts in Alabama and potentially other states where Black voters would have a better chance of electing someone of their choice, a decision widely seen as benefiting Democrats.

It's been more than three months since the justice's 5-4 ruling, and maps that could produce more districts represented by Black lawmakers still do not exist.

Alabama Republicans are hoping to get a fresh hearing on the issue before the Supreme Court. Republican lawmakers in Louisiana never even bothered to draw a new map.

Khadidah Stone, a plaintiff in the Alabama case, said the continuing opposition was "appalling" but "not surprising." She noted that Alabama is where then-Gov. George Wallace blocked Black students from integrating the University of Alabama in 1963.

AP

Khadidah Stone stands on the dividing line between her old Alabama congressional District 7, to her right with River City Church, and her new district, District 2, to her left, in downtown Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 20, 2022.

"There is a long history there of disobeying court orders to deny Black people our rights," she said.

A similar dynamic is playing out in Florida, where Republicans are appealing a ruling favorable to Black voters to the Republican-majority state Supreme Court.

Lawsuits over racially gerrymandered congressional maps in several other states, including Georgia, South Carolina and Texas, quickly followed the Supreme Court's landmark Voting Rights Act decision in June. But the continued pushback from Republican legislatures in control of redistricting means there is great uncertainty about whether — or how soon — new maps offering equal representation for Black voters will be drawn.

Whether the Republican strategy proves to be a defiance of court orders that the Supreme Court will shoot down or a deft political move will be become clearer over the next month.

Shawn Donahue of the State University of New York at Buffalo, an expert on voting rights and redistricting, said the Supreme Court could put a quick end to the delays and "summarily affirm" the decision of a lower court panel that rejected the latest Alabama congressional map. That map continued to provide just one majority Black district out of seven in a state where Black residents comprise 27% of the population.

"You could have some of (the justices) just kind of say — 'You know what, I didn't agree, but that's what the ruling was,'" Donahue said.

The Supreme Court also could agree to hear Alabama's challenge, bringing the state's redistricting plans back to the court less than a year after it rendered its opinion in the previous case.

Republicans want to keep their map in place as the state continues to fight the lower court ruling ordering them to create a second district where Black voters constitute a majority or close to it. The state contends the Supreme Court set no such remedy and that the new map complies with the court's decision by fixing the problems it identified — such as how the state's Black Belt region was split into multiple districts.

"A stay is warranted before voters are sorted into racially gerrymandered districts that are by their very nature odious,' the state attorney general's office wrote in the stay request.

The stakes are high. With Republicans holding a slim majority in the U.S. House, the redistricting cases have the potential to switch control of the chamber next year.

Shortly after its decision in the Alabama case, the Supreme Court lifted its hold on a similar case from Louisiana, raising hopes among Democrats that the state would be forced to draw another Black majority congressional district.

## Lee delivers high winds and rain before forecasters call off all warnings

**BAR HARBOR, Maine** (AP)—Atlantic storm Lee—which made landfall at near-hurricane strength, bringing destructive winds and torrential rains to New England and Maritime Canada—kept weakening Sunday after officials withdrew warnings and predicted the storm would disappear early this week.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Sunday morning that the post-tropical cyclone was about 135 miles (215 kilometers) west of Channel-Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland. The top sustained wind speed was 45 mph (70 kph) with some higher gusts expected.

"Gradual weakening is forecast during the next couple of days, and Lee could dissipate on Tuesday," the U.S. hurricane center said.

The sky was sunny in Maine on Sunday morning. Gov. Janet Mills suspended a state of emergency. Less than 5% of electricity customers were still without power, down from 11% by midday Saturday during the height of the storm. In Canada, 14% of Nova Scotia had no electricity, down from 27% on Saturday, with smaller numbers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The center discontinued a tropical storm warning for the coast of Maine late Saturday. It reported late Sunday morning that all tropical storm warnings for Canada were discontinued.

Storm surges were expected to subside on Sunday after being forecast as up to 3 feet (0.91 meters) on Saturday along coastal areas, the hurricane center said.

A 51-year-old motorist in Searsport, Maine, died Saturday after a large tree limb fell on his vehicle on U.S. Highway 1 during high winds. The limb brought down live power lines and utility workers had to cut power before removing the man, who died later at a hospital, Police Chief Brian Lunt said.

A driver suffered minor injuries Saturday, after a tree downed by Lee went through his windshield on Route 11 in Moro Plantation, Maine, according to Maine State Police. John Yoder, 23, of Apple Creek, Ohio, attempted to stop but couldn't avoid the tree. Yoder suffered minor cuts but the other five passengers in the van were not injured. Police blamed high winds for the downed tree.

The storm was tracked as moving around 22 mph (35 kph) and expected to proceed northeast, taking the weather system across the Canadian Maritimes. Rainfall was expected to be an additional 1 inch (25 millimeters) or less for portions of eastern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the U.S. storm center said.

In Bar Harbor, Maine, the touristy gateway to Acadia National Park, a whale watch vessel broke free of its mooring and crashed ashore Saturday. Authorities worked to offload 1,800 gallons (6,813 liters) of diesel fuel to prevent it from spilling into the ocean.

Lee flooded coastal roads in Nova Scotia and took ferries out of service while fanning anxiety in a region still reeling from wildfires and severe flooding this summer. The province's largest airport, Halifax Stanfield International, canceled all flights.

"People are exhausted," said Pam Lovelace, a councilor in Halifax. "It's so much in such a small time period."

Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 140 miles (220 kilometers) from Lee's center, with tropical storm-force winds extending as far as 320 miles (515 kilometers), enough to cover all of Maine and much of Maritime Canada.

The storm skirted some of the most waterlogged areas of Massachusetts that experienced severe flash flooding days earlier, when fast water washed out roads, caused sinkholes, damaged homes and flooded vehicles.

In eastern Maine, winds died down enough by late afternoon Saturday for utility workers to begin using bucket trucks to make repairs.

The entire region has experienced an especially wet summer, ranking second in the number of rainy days in Portland, Maine—and Lee's high winds toppled trees stressed by the rain-soaked ground in Maine, the nation's most heavily wooded state.

Cruise ships found refuge at berths in Portland, Maine, while lobstermen in Bar Harbor and elsewhere pulled traps from the water and hauled boats inland.

Billy Bob Faulkingham, House Republican leader of the Maine Legislature, and another lobsterman survived after their boat overturned while hauling traps ahead of the storm Friday, officials said.

The boat's emergency locator beacon alerted authorities and the pair clung to the hull until help arrived, said Winter Harbor Police Chief Danny Mitchell. The 42-foot (12.8-meter) boat sank.

## Texas AG back on job after acquittal but GOP aren't done attacking each other

**AUSTIN, Texas** (AP)—Newly acquitted of impeachment charges, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is back on the job and getting back to the usual.

Promises to keep dragging the Biden administration into court. Support from former President Donald Trump. And coming soon, a sit-down with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

As Paxton on Sunday begins his first full day back in office after winning acquittal in the Texas Senate over accusations of corruption and bribery, the Republican is quickly resuming what has long helped make him one of the most resilient political figures in the U.S. despite years of criminal charges and alleged scandal.

At the same time, the verdict is inflaming rifts within the GOP surrounding his impeachment in the first place.

The fallout in the Texas Capitol is likely only beginning and threatens to spill into the 2024 elections, when conservative allies of the Trump-backed attorney general say they will target Republican legislators who led the investigation against Paxton.

Even the very act of impeachment in Texas could get a second look after Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presided over the trial, called for new guardrails in a fiery speech questioning how the case made it this far.

On the other side are Republicans in the Texas House, where Paxton was overwhelmingly impeached and suspended from office in May. Its members bristled at Saturday's verdict and the criticism leveled by the lieutenant governor.

"The inescapable conclusion is that today's outcome appears to have been orchestrated from the start, cheating the people of Texas of justice," Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan said.

Paxton, 60, was absent for most of the trial and was not in the Senate for his acquittal on 16 articles of impeachment. He issued a statement blasting his impeachment as the work of a "kangaroo court" and promoted an interview he plans to give this week with Carlson.

"I've said many times: Seek the truth! And that is what was accomplished," Paxton said.

The trial was a showcase of sober testimony and occasional spectacle. In accusing Paxton of abusing his office, former advisers recounted how Texas' top lawyer allegedly pressured them to help a political donor who was under FBI investigation. The testimony included arguments over who paid for home renovations, whether Paxton used burner phones and how his alleged extramarital affair became a strain on the office.

# Asia

## China flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan

AP

Soldiers pose for group photos with a Taiwan flag after a preparedness enhancement drill simulating the defense against Beijing's military intrusions, ahead of the Lunar New Year in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan on Jan. 11, 2023.

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—China's military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry said Monday was a daily record in recent times.

The planes were detected between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The U.S. is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said that 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic halfway point between mainland China and the island. It also reported nine naval vessels in the previous 24 hours.

The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" that it warned could escalate in the current tense atmosphere. "We urge the Beijing authorities to bear responsibility and immediately stop such kind of destructive military activities," it said in a statement."

China last week sent a flotilla of ships including the aircraft carrier Shandong into waters near Taiwan. The drills came shortly after the U.S. and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait, the waters that separate the island from the mainland.

China also unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone with Taiwan in China's nearby Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwan while also warning it in what experts say is China's long-running carrot and stick approach.

The recent actions may be an attempt to sway Taiwan's presidential election in January. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which leans toward formal independence for the island, is anathema to the Chinese government. China favors opposition candidates who advocate working with the mainland.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 when the communists took control of China during a civil war. The losing Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up their own government on the island.

## S. Korea warns against Russia-N. Korea military cooperation

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea's president said the international community "will unite more tightly" to cope with deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, as he plans to raise the issue with world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly this week.

Worries about Russian-North Korean ties have flared since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia last week for a summit with President Vladimir Putin and to tour a slew of high-profile military and technology sites. Foreign experts speculate Kim could refill Russia's ammunition inventory drained in its 18-month war with Ukraine in return for economic aid and technologies to modernize his weapons systems targeting South Korea and the U.S.

"Military cooperation between North Korea and Russia is illegal and unjust as it contravenes U.N. Security Council resolutions and various other international sanctions," South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in written responses to questions from The Associated Press before his departure to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

"The international community will unite more tightly in response to such a move," he said.

In his address Wednesday at the annual U.N. gathering, Yoon will speak about his assessment of the Russian-North Korean moves, according to his office in South Korea, which added it is discussing countermeasures with the U.S., Japan and other partners.

While Russian-North Korean cooperation is feared to fuel Russia's war efforts in Ukraine, it has also stoked security jitters in South Korea, where many think a Russian transfer of sophisticated weapons technologies would help North Korea acquire a functioning spy satellite, a nuclear-powered submarine and more powerful missiles. Some experts still say North Korea would end up receiving food and cash in return for supplying ammunition and shells because Russia closely guards its high-tech weapons technologies.

North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal has been a major source of tensions in the region, with the North openly threatening to use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with its rivals and conducting a barrage of missile tests since last year. In response, Yoon and U.S. President Joe Biden in April agreed to expand joint military exercises, increase the temporary deployments of U.S. strategic assets and launch a bilateral nuclear consultative group.

# World

## Spotlight on Ukraine at UN leaders' gathering

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The war in Ukraine and its visiting president take center stage at the United Nations this week, but developing countries will be vying for the spotlight as well as they push for faster action on poverty and inequality at the first full-on meeting of world leaders since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel three years ago.

**» But is there room for other global priorities?**

The annual meeting at the U.N. General Assembly takes place at a polarizing and divisive juncture in history—the most fraught and dangerous since the Cold War, according to many analysts and diplomats.

They point to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which upended already difficult relations among major powers as well as the ongoing impact of the pandemic, high food prices, the worsening climate emergency, escalating conflicts, and the world's failure to tackle poverty, hunger and gender inequality.

For developing countries, the top priority is the U.N.'s two-day summit starting Monday aimed at generating action by world leaders to achieve 17 wide-ranging and badly lagging global goals by 2030. In addition to ending extreme poverty and hunger, the goals include ensuring quality secondary education for all children, achieving gender equality and taking urgent action to combat climate change. At current rates, not a single one will be achieved.

High-level meetings on issues including pandemic prevention and universal health care are also on tap.

"We find ourselves at a critical juncture in human history," former Liberian president and Nobel peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said last week.

When the annual high-level meeting of the 193-member General Assembly begins Tuesday, presidents, prime ministers and monarchs from 145 countries are scheduled to speak, a very high number that reflects the multitude of global crises and lack of action.

For the first time in years, U.S. President Joe Biden will be the only leader from the five powerful veto-wielding nations on the U.N. Security Council attending in person. This has sparked private grumbling from developing-country diplomats that key global players won't be listening to their demands, which need billions of dollars to implement.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended last month's Johannesburg summit of the BRICS bloc of developing economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Russian President Vladimir Putin, sought by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes in Ukraine, didn't go to South Africa and isn't coming to New York. French President Emmanuel Macron, who attended last year, opted out to host Britain's King Charles in Paris next week, and Rishi Sunak will be the first British prime minister to skip the General Assembly in a decade, officially due to a busy schedule.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters last week that he didn't think a leader's presence "is more relevant or less relevant." What counts, he said, is whether their government is prepared to make commitments on the U.N. goals and many other issues during the week. "So this is not a vanity fair," he said.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director of the International Crisis Group, said that after the recent meeting in New Delhi of the Group of 20 major economic powers, "for some European leaders right now there is not a lot of political capital in going to big summits, and you need to be seen at home a lot more."

He called the situation at the United Nations "bleak," saying "it feels like we are a lot closer to a cliff edge in U.N. diplomacy" than a year ago. "Major power tensions are having a more and more serious effect on the organization," he said.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Dominican Republic's president stands resolute on closing of all borders with Haiti

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic** (AP)—The president of the Dominican Republic on Sunday defended his decision to close air, sea and land traffic with neighboring Haiti in their dispute over construction of a canal targeting a river that runs through both countries. President Luis Abinader said in a televised speech that the border closures begun Friday will remain in place until construction is halted on the canal, which seeks to use water from the Massacre River to alleviate a drought in Haiti's Maribaroux plain. "We do not desire or seek confrontation, but we are confronting the uncontrollable people who keep Haiti insecure, and who, due to their private interests, now also conspire against the stability of their government and the security of our water resources," Abinader said during his brief speech, referring to gang violence that has engulfed Haiti. Accusing Haiti of violating a 1929 treaty between both countries, he said that the Massacre River is a key resource for Dominican farmers and that construction could damage the environment, including a wetland.

#### Zimbabwe's reelected president says there's democracy

**HARARE, Zimbabwe** (AP)—Barely a week after being elected as a local councilor for Zimbabwe's main opposition party, Womberaishe Nhende and a relative were pulled out of their car by unidentified men, shot with a stun gun and handcuffed. They were then bundled into a pickup truck and driven about 70 kilometers (more than 40 miles) outside of Harare, the capital, where they were whipped, beaten with truncheons and interrogated, and injected with an unknown substance, their lawyers say. Having been questioned over what their Citizens Coalition for Change party is planning after August's disputed and troubled national election, the ordeal ended when the two men were dumped naked near a river, the lawyers allege. Their story isn't new in the southern African nation, which has a long history of violence and intimidation against opposition to the ZANU-PF party during its 43-year rule.

# Overdrive

## Auto review: 2024 Dodge Hornet slaps an historic name on its stingin' little crossover self

By CASEY WILLIAMS
Tribune News Service

TNS

The 2023 Dodge Hornet GT in Acapulco Gold.

**NUTS & BOLTS**

**2023 Dodge Hornet GT Plus**

- **Five-passenger, AWD Crossover**
- **Powertrain**: 2.0-liter T4, 9-spd
- **Output**: 268hp/295 lb.-ft. torque
- **Suspension f/r**: Ind/Ind
- **Wheels f/r**: 18"/18" alloy
- **Brakes f/r**: disc/disc
- **0-60 mph**: 6.5s
- **Fuel economy**: 21/29 mpg city/hwy
- **Assembly**: Naples, Italy
- **Base/As-tested price**: $30,735/$40,710

It dominated NASCAR, boogied through the 1970s, starred in countless movies, and now sports flashy Italian style. The Hornet has a long and distinguished pedigree, having assumed disparate shapes and features over the decades, and its current avatar, the Dodge Hornet GT, is an attractive and worthy evolution of the nameplate,

The original 1951 Hudson Hornet was known for its streamlined styling and "step down chassis," in which the floorpan and passengers were set between the frame rails for a lower profile and improved center of gravity for safety and handling.

In "Cars," Doc Hudson (the Hornet character voiced by Paul Newman) was a "three-time winner of the Piston Cup", but in reality the Hornet dominated NASCAR, winning 27 of 34 Grand National races in 1952, 22 of 37 in 1953, and 17 of 37 in 1954. Not bad for a car renowned for its luxury credentials.

**LIKES:**

- Buff styling
- Agile handling
- Turbo-four engine
- Dislikes:
- Fuel economy
- Harsher ride
- Volume/tuning controls

The Dodge Hornet is an entirely different insect — essentially a domesticated version of the Alfa Romeo Tonale, although not entirely Americanized because it's assembled in Naples, Italy. Sure, it has snarling air extractors on its hood, angry hornets on its flanks, and looks menacing with 18-inch black wheels and black trim included in the Blacktop package, but the curvy, muscular sheet metal would look as sexy in Tuscany as Tucson. In GT trim, it's also a convincing Dodge. I'd say it's even a might sportier than the 1976 AMC Hornet Sportabout wagon.

Gone are the cheap plastic and cloth seats from The Malaise Era of American cars. The Dodge Hornet's interior cribs Alfa design with deeply bolstered black leather sport seats, a flat bottom steering wheel with bulging hand grips, and red stitching throughout. The steering wheel is canted forward in the Italian tradition.

Beyond that, it's pretty comfortable. Flatscreen gauges are clear and concise, and the slick center screen looks artful attached to the dash, but putting volume control in the console is a little too Audi. I'd prefer Chrysler Group's super intuitive infotainment with easy icons plus proper volume and tuning knobs. I have no complaints about wireless Apple/Android connectivity, sumptuous Harman Kardon audio, or dual-zone automatic climate control.

Hornet is available as a plug-in hybrid with 30 miles EV range and putting out 288 horsepower and 383 pound-feet of torque, but our super fly buzzes about with Dodge's "Hurricane" 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, connected to a nine-speed automatic transmission, delivering 268 horsepower and 295 pound-feet of torque. The old Hudsons would have no hope of matching the latest Hornet's 0-60 mph time of 6.5 seconds.

TNS

The 1955 Hudson Hornet Hollywood.

It's safe to say the Dodge Hornet GT would own 1950s NASCAR, but a proper performance crossover is not born of speed alone. Hailing from Italy suggests the Hornet performs as if old Enzo Ferrari was fettling the chassis. He's not, but the quite firm four-wheel independent suspension and sharp steering are more adept than the average crossover. Add to that torque-vectoring all-wheel drives to sharpen corners and a Sport mode that makes the throttle more responsive, tightens steering, and employs a limited slip differential to lay power evenly. The Hornet is comfortable on the highway and over most city pavement, but it is most fun over smooth twisty pavement.

And while we may dream of attacking two-lanes through Italy, it's more likely that time spent in Dodge Hornets will be interrupted by belching kids and slobbering dogs en route to baseball practice. Keeping everybody safe are adaptive cruise, lane-centering steering with haptic counter steer (which gently nudges the car back into lane), and automatic emergency braking. Blind spot warning, rear cross path detection, and surround-view camera protect fenders and pedestrians, too.

With an Italian accent and NASCAR heritage, Dodge has a stinging little Hornet crossover that's unique among rivals. It's a fun commute to work, easy in daily errands, and occasionally enjoys a good romp through the country. A base price of $30,735—$40,710 as-tested—suggests competitors like the Subaru Crosstrek Sport, Chevy Equinox RS, Mazda CX-50, Acura RDX and Buick Envision ST.

*Casey Williams is an Indianapolis-based automotive journalist and a long-time contributor to the Chicago Tribune.*

## AM not switched off just yet

**Q: Your recent comment, "…btw, cars are coming with no AM at all" provides me a great opportunity to bring to your attention a current effort in Congress to prevent that from happening, and for good reason, as AM radio plays a critical role in America's Emergency Alert System. Ford, apparently realizing their error, just reversed their decision to remove AM radio from their 2024 vehicles but has yet to commit beyond 2024, giving even more reason for the bill's passage. I enjoy your column!**

—Dennis Lyle, president and CEO, Illinois Broadcasters Association

A: It's true that AM radio has a much greater reach than FM. When I was a kid growing up in Pittsburgh, I could listen to a station broadcasting from Chicago. Ford deserves credit for offering AM, even in its all-electric Mustang Mach-E. Bills in both the U.S. House and Senate would require the AM band be available in automobiles. Thank you, Dennis, for tuning in.

**Q: I own a 2019 Mercedes E300 with 9,000 miles. I store it for the winter. I want to put it on a 12-volt battery maintenance charger. What is the correct amp amount?**

**—G.M., Lisle, Illinois**

A: If you use a battery maintainer, a unit that's able to float the charge, you needn't choose an amperage. It will sense the battery's need and only charge as necessary. But if you use a battery charger, one on which you select the amps, quit using it. It will cook your battery and kill it over the winter.

**Q: I have a 2017 Ford Flex Limited. It appears no matter where I am driving, my fuel average gauge is almost always showing 15.9 to 16.2 mpg. On a long road trip, it was up to 19.6 but immediately returned to that previous range. My mechanic says everything is showing normal.**

**—M.C., Niles, Illinois**

A: Do you zero the fuel economy data before setting out on a trip? If not, it will keep averaging your fuel economy with all the past miles.

**Q: A few years ago, we relocated from Illinois to Tucson. With summer pavement temperatures reaching north of 150, I'm wondering how much of a negative impact this has on my tires and what, if anything, I can do to minimize excessive wear.**

**—F.N., Tucson, Arizona**

A: Yes, the heat takes its toll on tires. But vulcanized rubber does not melt. However, winter tires, made of softer compounds, wear quicker in summer than do summer or all-season tires. The best thing you can do is keep your tires inflated to the carmaker's recommendation as found on the driver's side door pillar. Over inflation does not help and under inflation is unsafe.

**MOTORMOUTH**

**BY BOB WEBER**
Tribune News Service

*Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest.*

**Q: Regarding the recent article about a Chevy Malibu stop/start not working, I have a 2019 Chevy Cruze with stop/start, which stopped working when it was about three years old. I took it to the Chevy dealer to get it fixed just before the three-year warranty was up. The tech diagnosed it as a weak battery. They replaced the battery under warranty, and stop/start worked fine after that. The stop/start technology requires a full battery charge at all times since the battery must handle the starting of the engine over and over. This is then a good indicator that a new battery is needed.**

**—S.H., Henderson, Nevada**

A: Good point and worth reminding my readers. When the battery gets low, the stop/start feature is disabled to allow available power to be routed to more vital circuits.

# Life & Style

## ‘Nun 2’ narrowly edges ‘A Haunting in Venice’ over quiet weekend in movie theaters

**NEW YORK** (AP)—“The Nun 2” and “A Haunting in Venice” virtually tied for the No. 1 spot in U.S. and Canadian theaters over the weekend, with a slight edge carrying the horror sequel over the Hercule Poirot mystery, according to studio estimates Sunday.

In its second weekend of release, Warner Bros.’ “The Nun 2,” a spinoff from the studio’s lucrative “Conjuring” franchise, grossed $14.7 million. If numbers hold, that will give “The Nun 2” (up to $56.5 million total and $158.8 million worldwide) the top spot at the box office for the second straight week.

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Taissa Farmiga as Sister Irene in New Line Cinema’s horror thriller “The Nun II.”

Very close behind was “A Haunting in Venice,” Kenneth Branagh’s third Agatha Christie adaptation following 2017’s “Murder on the Orient Express” and 2022’s “Death on the Nile.” It opened with $14.5 million.

Final box-office figures will be released Monday.

After the successful run of “Murder on the Orient Express” ($352.8 million worldwide against a production budget of $55 million) and the less-stellar global haul of “Death on the Nile” ($137.3 million against a $90 million budget), the sluggish start for “A Haunting in Venice” may have signaled the death knell for Branagh’s detective.

The 20th Century Studios film, released by the Walt Disney Co., grossed $22.7 million internationally. And it cost less than its predecessor, carrying a production budget of about $60 million.

- “The Nun II,” $14.7 million.
- “A Haunting in Venice,” $14.5 million.
- “The Equalizer 3,” $7.2 million.
- “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3,” $4.7million.
- “Barbie,” $4 million.
- “Jawan,” $2.5 million.
- “Blue Beetle,” $2.5 million.
- “Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story,” $2.4 million.
- “Oppenheimer,” $2.1 million.
- “ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem,” $2 million.

## Russell Brand denies allegations of sexual assault

**LONDON** (AP)—Three British news organizations reported Saturday that comedian and social influencer Russell Brand has been accused of rape, sexual assault and abuse based on allegations from four women who knew him over a seven-year period at the height of his fame.

Brand denied the allegations and said that all of his relationships have been consensual.

The Sunday Times, The Times of London and Channel 4’s “Dispatches” said that one woman alleged she had been raped, while three others accused him of sexual assault. One of the women also said he had been physically and emotionally abusive.

The women said that they only felt ready to tell their stories after being approached by reporters, with some citing Brand’s newfound prominence as an online wellness influencer as a factor in their decision to speak.

Before the stories were published, Brand posted a video online denying the allegations, which had been outlined in two “extremely disturbing letters” from a “mainstream media” television company and a newspaper. He didn’t identify the news organizations by name.

“Amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute,” he said. “These allegations pertain to the time when I was working in the mainstream, when I was in the newspapers all the time, when I was in the movies and, as I have written about extensively in my books, I was very, very promiscuous.”

“Now during that time of promiscuity the relationships I had were absolutely, always consensual,” he added. “I was always transparent about that then, almost too transparent, and I am being transparent about it now as well.”

Brand also suggested that the reports were part of a coordinated attack designed to discredit him because of his views. Brand has been criticized for expressing skepticism about COVID-19 vaccines and interviewing contentious podcasters like Joe Rogan.

AP

Comedian Russell Brand performs at “Eddie Murphy: One Night Only,” a celebration of Murphy’s career, at the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills, Calif, Nov. 3, 2012.

## Barrymore, 'The Talk' postpone daytime talk shows until after Hollywood strikes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Drew Barrymore, who drew criticism for taping new episodes of her daytime talk show despite the ongoing writers and actors strikes, now says she’ll wait until the labor issues are resolved. Hours later CBS’ “The Talk” did the same.

“I have listened to everyone, and I am making the decision to pause the show’s premiere until the strike is over,” Barrymore posted on Instagram on Sunday. “I have no words to express my deepest apologies to anyone I have hurt and, of course, to our incredible team who works on the show and has made it what it is today.”

Barrymore’s initial decision to return to the air Monday—without her three union writers and with picketers outside her studio—was met with pushback on social media. Her show resumed taping in New York last week and was picketed by striking writers.

“We support Drew’s decision to pause the show’s return and understand how complex and difficult this process has been for her,” said a CBS Media Ventures spokesperson

Other daytime shows have resumed. “The View” has returned for its 27th season on ABC, while “Tamron Hall” and “Live With Kelly and Ryan”—neither are governed by writers guild rules—have also been producing fresh episodes. “The Jennifer Hudson Show” is to restart Monday.

But “The Talk” scrapped its restart, planned for Monday. “We will continue to evaluate plans for a new launch date,” CBC said in a statement Sunday.

Ariel Dumas, head writer and supervising producer for “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” reacted on X, formerly Twitter: “This is really great,” she wrote, saying “The Drew Barrymore Show” “decided to do the right thing. I hope @TheView and others will follow suit.”

## Birth mother holds no responsibility for adoptive parents

DEAR ABBY: Would it be wrong to reach out to my biological mother for financial help? I was adopted when I was just 2 months old. I was lucky to have wonderful parents, but they are in poor health, and it’s affecting both of them physically. I’m going into debt helping them out financially. They are on a fixed income that barely covers their expenses. Would it be wrong of me to ask my birth mother for that help? We see each other occasionally. My birth mother sold her house and isn’t hurting financially. I don’t want to sound entitled. I just need some help, and I’m prepared for a no.

ENTITLED TO ANYTHING?

**DEAR ENTITLED: It isn’t your birth mother’s responsibility to support the couple who adopted you, particularly since the request for money would be ongoing. You stated that you see her only occasionally. (If you do what you are considering, you may be seeing her less often.) If your parents still have relatives, you might have some success if you approach them for the financial help you are seeking. If not, reach out to your local Area Agency on Aging for guidance.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, “Dan,” and I separated for four months. We have now reunited. However, his son “Ryan” told me he never wants to see me again. I wrote him a letter, expressed my remorse and invited him to visit, but have received no response. Ryan shuns me now. My husband is going to invite him to visit, but I don’t know how I will deal with it. I do not want to be his hostess. What should I do?

BACK TOGETHER IN WEST VIRGINIA

**DEAR BACK: IF Dan invites Ryan to visit, and IF Ryan agrees, put on a smile and become the most gracious hostess since Perle Mesta. (If you don’t know who she was, look her up.) Your husband may be able to mediate a resumption of harmonious family relations. If his son regarded your leaving as a personal rejection, Dan may be able to disabuse him of that idea and patch things up.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was recently discharged from the hospital. Family members have told my husband to call if there’s anything they can do to help. That makes one more thing for my husband to do -- make a phone call. I’d like to suggest a better way to help. Family members, please call and TELL my husband what specifically you would LIKE to do to help. Some examples: Bring a meal. Do an errand. Sit with me while my husband goes out to do errands, etc. I think the best thing anyone can do is bring a meal. It’s one less thing for the caretaker to have to do. The food doesn’t have to be homemade; it can be bought. Patient and caregiver still have to eat. Thank you, Abby, for letting me make this point.

HAPPY TO BE HOME

**DEAR HAPPY: Your point is well taken. You are right. It never hurts to volunteer what you could do to help someone recovering from a medical procedure. Some suggestions: Do some marketing or laundry or pick up their child from school and take them to the park to burn off some energy.**

■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

**DEAR ABBY**

**By Abigail Van Buren**

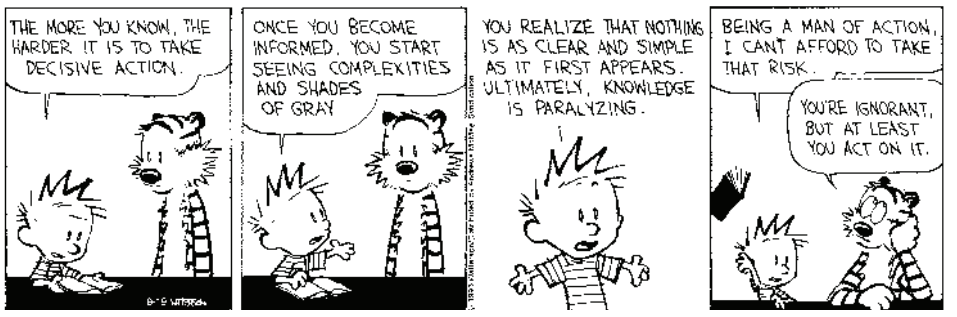
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE HARDER IT IS TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION.
ONCE YOU BECOME INFORMED, YOU START SEEING COMPLEXITIES AND SHADES OF GRAY
YOU REALIZE THAT NOTHING IS AS CLEAR AND SIMPLE AS IT FIRST APPEARS. ULTIMATELY, KNOWLEDGE IS PARALYZING.
BEING A MAN OF ACTION, I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE THAT RISK.
YOU'RE IGNORANT, BUT AT LEAST YOU ACT ON IT.

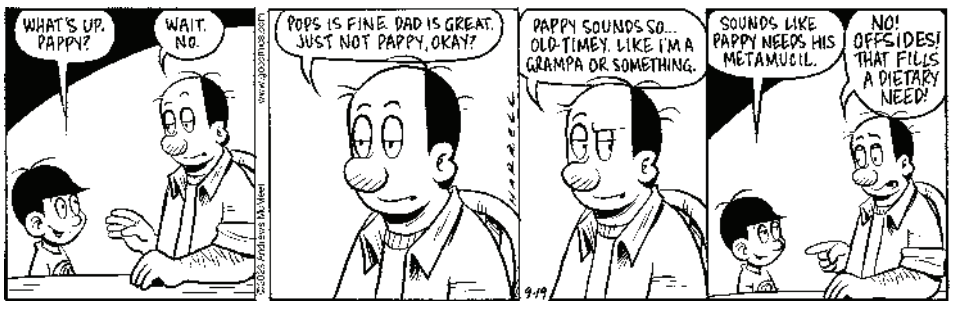
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IN HIGH SCHOOL, LOTS OF GUYS PLAYED AIR GUITAR
BUT I WAS DIFFERENT
I PLAYED AIR ACCORDION!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T GET ANY LAMER
PHOTOS
JIM DAVIS 9-19

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S UP, PAPPY?
WAIT. NO.
POPS IS FINE. DAD IS GREAT. JUST NOT PAPPY, OKAY?
PAPPY SOUNDS SO... OLD-TIMEY. LIKE I'M A GRAMPA OR SOMETHING.
SOUNDS LIKE PAPPY NEEDS HIS METAMUCIL.
NO! OFFSIDES! THAT FILLS A DIETARY NEED!

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

END, WE'VE BEEN DATING AWHILE. BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE EVERYTHING CHANGES.
NOT NECESSARILY. I'VE BEEN WEARING THESE SOCKS FOR 3 WEEKS!
I'LL BE CHANGING MY ZIP CODE.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

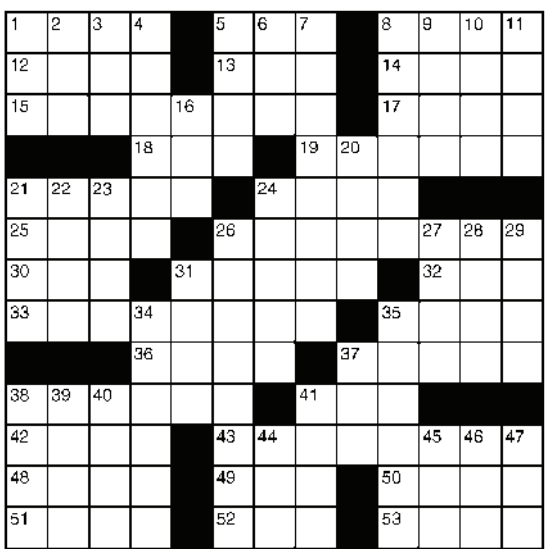
**ACROSS**
1 Small-scale
5 Tummy muscles
8 Shake-speare title starter
12 Source
13 Rug cleaner, briefly
14 Harvest
15 Deli sandwich filler
17 Bean variety
18 Started
19 Certain Nebras-kan
21 Roberts of TV news
24 Heath
25 Annap-olis sch.
26 Type of call
30 Greek P
31 Relin-quished
32 Corn spike
33 Cheating on a return
35 Country singer Evans
36 Farm fathers
37 Gasoline dispens-ers
38 Nurse's garb
41 Sesame product
42 Couturier Cassini
43 Dave Brubeck classic
48 "Small-ville" girl
49 Actress Longoria
50 Russian river
51 Auto-bahn auto
52 Shaft of light
53 Tear

**DOWN**
1 "The A-Team" actor
2 Chit
3 Dijon denial
4 Roma's land
5 Eager
6 Some coll. degrees
7 Edu-cated
8 Dog barks
9 Wife of Jacob
10 Volcanic flow
11 Bridge
16 Service charge
20 Aspic shaper
21 Brusque
22 Job-safety org.
23 Kentucky fort
24 — operandi
26 Trucker in a union
27 500 sheets
28 Virgil or Wyatt
29 Historic periods
31 Grouch
34 Thrifty
35 Element No. 16
37 Key lime — 
38 Without help
39 Applaud
40 Thinker Des-cartes
41 Fine
44 Glam Gardner
45 Fury
46 Mover's vehicle
47 Days of yore

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | T | | | F | E | T | E | S | | M | O | B |
| M | A | I | | | E | N | O | L | A | | A | M | I |
| M | A | C | F | A | D | Y | E | N | | | C | A | B |
| | | | O | S | U | | C | E | D | A | R | S | |
| C | O | M | C | T | S | | T | S | A | R | | | |
| A | H | A | | | S | E | I | | | I | H | O | N | G |
| S | C | C | T | | | R | I | D | | | L | C | O | P |
| S | O | A | H | S | | | A | R | I | | | N | D | A |
| | | | R | A | H | S | | | I | R | I | S | E | S |
| A | L | I | M | A | N | | G | A | S | | | | | |
| D | O | I | I | | | M | A | C | A | D | A | M | I | A |
| A | B | U | | | | E | N | O | D | E | | R | M | N |
| M | C | R | | | | S | C | L | C | S | | S | P | Y |

Yesterday's answer 9-19



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kevin Zegers, 39; Alison Sweeney, 47; Jimmy Fallon, 49; Trisha Yearwood, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Discipline will help you achieve things, but don't let it stifle your creativity. Emotions will brew, and although keeping your secrets safe and sound is favored, sharing essential information with those close to you is necessary. Keep the conversation flowing. Having a willingness to adopt change that keeps you updated is vital to your success. Stick to the truth and complete your mission. Your numbers are 9, 17, 26, 32, 38, 44, 49.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Emotional matters will cost you if you lack realism. Sidestep joint ventures and proceed alone to maintain control. Being able to do things your way will give you limitless energy and enthusiasm to outmaneuver anyone who tries to get in your way. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* You'll gravitate toward serious people pursuing a similar mission. Don't get consumed in someone else's dream; work alongside people who empower you to do your own thing. Be open about what you want and turn your plans into something tangible. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Go about your business, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. A personal challenge will help you hone your skills and push you to reach your potential. Personal growth requires time, energy and imagination. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Participate and see what happens. Someone you meet will spark your imagination and encourage you to believe in yourself. A partnership looks promising but will require input if you want to maintain equality. Make changes based on your needs and reap the rewards. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Contain your enthusiasm to jump in and take over. You'll bite off more than you can chew if you are too eager to show off. Gauge your time and test the waters before you plunge into something that causes emotional or physical setbacks. ✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make your move. Stop procrastinating or waiting for the perfect moment. Start heading in a direction that suits your needs and lifestyle. Change can be frightening, but regret will haunt you. Life lessons lead to wisdom, success and personal satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Poor judgment will cost you. Don't get involved with someone for the wrong reason. Focus on self-improvement, sustainability and security. You can help others, but not at the expense of stifling your progress. Put your energy where it brings the highest return. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep the momentum flowing. Conversations will lead to concrete results and positive change. Look for a unique way to present what you want to pursue, and the interest in your plan will mount. A personal change will lead to an unexpected opportunity. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to your health. Overindulgence will induce problems that you least expect. Be honest with yourself and others, and honor any promises you make. Protect your secrets from someone eager to hurt your reputation. Hard work will pay off and ward off trouble. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You are in a better position than you realize. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, and put everything into getting the results that will increase your profile. Refuse to let personal matters disrupt your concentration. Finish what you start. ✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Poor behavior will make you vulnerable. Protect yourself from those luring you into something you shouldn't pursue. Build your strength and improve your image in order to stifle negative outside influences. Make romance a priority. ✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put the brakes on any far-fetched or overpriced suggestion. Stick to what's realistic and fits your budget and lifestyle. Surround yourself with solid people who aren't afraid to tell you the truth. Make decisions based on facts. ✪✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are intuitive, compassionate and demonstrative. You are entertaining and ambitious.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | 4 | 6 | | 9 | 5 |
| | 4 | | 9 | | | | 2 | |
| | 5 | 8 | | 2 | | 1 | 6 | |
| 4 | 6 | | 8 | | 1 | 9 | | 3 |
| | | 1 | | 6 | 9 | 2 | | 8 |
| 1 | | | | 8 | 5 | | | |
| | | 4 | | 9 | 7 | 6 | | |
| | 9 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | 1 |

Difficulty: ★★ 9/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 |

Difficulty: ★ 9/18

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RUSSIAN SAMOVARS — Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | E | R | A | M | I | C | E | G | A | T | N | I | V | P |
| H | S | R | E | N | I | A | T | N | O | C | D | U | A | O |
| I | S | C | U | P | S | H | L | Ⓑ | B | L | L | N | S | L |
| M | A | D | A | T | R | T | E | A | Ⓞ | A | O | I | E | I |
| N | L | E | R | L | L | K | E | A | O | Ⓘ | G | Q | N | S |
| E | G | T | S | I | A | U | R | A | T | C | Ⓛ | U | I | H |
| Y | N | A | H | A | N | B | C | A | M | O | E | E | H | E |
| Y | I | R | A | L | B | K | R | U | T | S | U | Z | S | D |
| N | T | O | P | A | E | T | S | E | U | E | F | I | A | E |
| O | N | C | E | T | N | E | V | R | H | O | R | S | U | U |
| M | I | E | Q | E | U | Y | N | A | P | M | O | C | C | Q |
| E | A | D | C | M | R | E | T | A | W | A | R | M | E | I |
| R | P | N | U | L | A | N | O | I | T | I | D | A | R | T |
| E | O | E | E | P | I | P | O | R | C | E | L | A | I | N |
| C | A | R | D | A | M | O | M | U | N | I | M | U | L | A |

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Aluminum, Antique, Base, Boil, Cardamom, Ceramic, Ceremony, Chimney, Coal, Company, Concentration, Container, Culture, Cups, Decorated, Drink, Fuel, Glass, Gold, Heat, Herbal, Krater, Metal, Museum, Painting, Pipe, Polished, Porcelain, Saucer, Shape, Shine, Size, Social, Steam, Teapot, Traditional, Unique, Urn, Vase, Vent, Vintage, Warm, Water

**Yesterday's Answer: Chord**

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

# Mullins' 11th-inning sacrifice fly lifts Orioles over

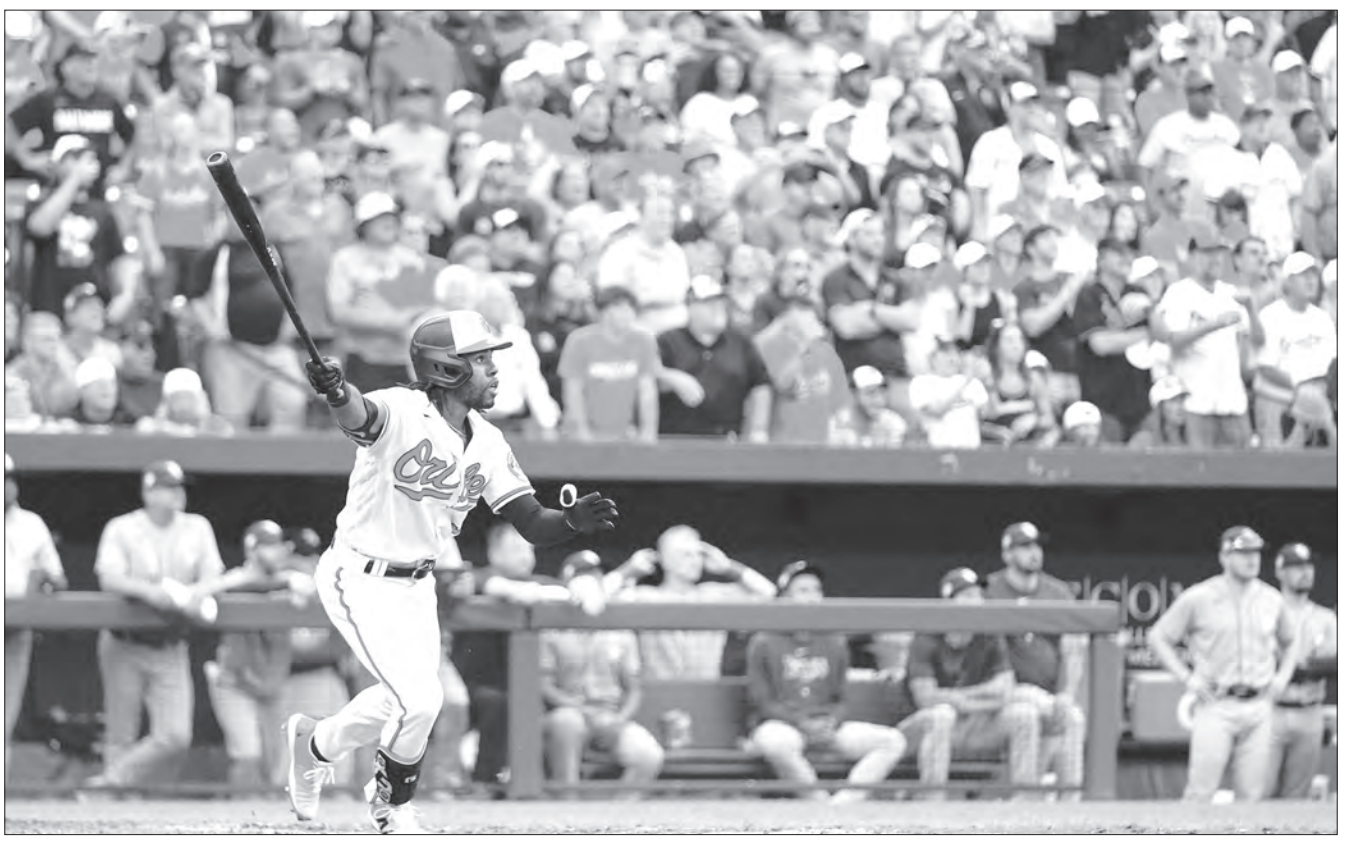
**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Cedric Mullins hit a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 11th inning, and the Baltimore Orioles edged the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 on Sunday after both teams clinched spots in the postseason.

The winner of this game would have wrapped up a playoff spot regardless, but when Texas lost 9-2 to Cleveland, both the Rays and Orioles were in. Moments later, Adam Frazier doubled home the tying run in the bottom of the ninth off Pete Fairbanks to send the game to extra innings.

DL Hall (2-0) threw a scoreless 11th, retiring the Rays on a popup and two grounders.

Mullins flyball to center off Jake Diekman (0-2) was easily deep enough to end it, touching off an on-field celebration in which the players wore orange shirts saying "TAKE OCTOBER" on them.

The Orioles salvaged a split in this key four-game series at Camden Yards and took a two-game lead over Tampa Bay atop the AL East. Baltimore also holds the tiebreaker over the Rays.



AP

Baltimore Orioles' Cedric Mullins follows through as he connects for a sacrifice fly ball to score Adley Rutschman with the winning run in the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, in Baltimore.

## MARLINS 16, BRAVES 2

**MIAMI** (AP)—Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a grand slam for the second consecutive game and Miami routed Atlanta to complete a three-game sweep of the NL East champions.

Jorge Soler, Jake Burger and Nick Fortes also went deep, and Luis Arraez had three hits for the Marlins, who began the day a half-game out of the third NL wild-card spot. It was Miami's first three-game sweep over Atlanta since 2015.

Marlins starter Jesús Luzardo struck out eight in six scoreless innings. Luzardo (10-9) allowed four hits and walked two.

Four consecutive two-out walks by Braves starter Charlie Morton in the fifth increased Miami's lead to 6-0 and ended his outing. Morton (14-12) gave up six runs and six hits. He walked five and struck out five.

## DODGERS 6, MARINERS 1

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Jason Heyward, Austin Barnes and James Outman homered to lead Los Angeles to a three-game sweep one day after clinching the NL West title.

Heyward also had a double, single and two RBIs, and Amed Rosario was a homer shy of the cycle.

J.P. Crawford had two hits and drove in the only run for the Mariners, who have lost seven of nine in the midst of a playoff race.

The Dodgers got a strong pitching performance from left-hander Ryan Yarbrough (8-6), who held the Mariners to one run in 4 2/3 innings with seven strikeouts. Yarbrough came on in the second following opener Shelby Miller, and Gavin Stone entered with two outs in the sixth and closed out the game for a save, giving up one hit.

## NATIONALS 2, BREWERS 1, 11 INNINGS

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Joey Meneses hit a sacrifice fly in the 11th inning and Washington defeated NL Central-leading Milwaukee to prevent a three-game sweep.

Luis García homered early for the Nationals, who are last in the NL East.

With right-hander Thyago Vieira (0-1) on for his second inning of relief in the 11th, automatic runner CJ Abrams advanced to third base on Lane Thomas' flyout and scored on Meneses' third sacrifice fly of the season.

With runners at the corners in the bottom half, Robert Garcia (1-2) got pinch-hitter Rowdy Tellez to ground into a game-ending double play to secure his first major league win.

## ASTROS 7, ROYALS 1

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Yordan Alvarez and Jake Meyers homered and Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings as Houston beat Kansas City.

The Astros salvaged the final game of the series, expanding their American League West lead to 1 1/2 games.

Valdez (12-10) pitched around three Astros errors for his fifth consecutive quality start, allowing one unearned run on five hits and a walk, striking out five.

Meyers led off the fourth with his 10th homer and Alvarez hit his 28th leading off the fifth, the 38th allowed by Jordan Lyles (4-17), tying a Royals record. Lyles completed six innings, allowing four runs on six hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

## BLUE JAYS 3, RED SOX 2

**TORONTO** (AP)—Matt Chapman hit a game-ending double off the center-field wall in the ninth inning, lifting Toronto over Boston for a three-game sweep.

The sweep of Boston put the Blue Jays back in the postseason picture after they were swept by Texas in a four-game series last week.

With All-Star closer Jordan Romano unavailable after pitching the previous two days, Erik Swanson (4-2) blew a save for the second time in six chances.

Cavan Biggio singled with one against Garrett Whitlock (5-5), and Chapman followed with his second double of the game. Chapman's 37 doubles are tied for third-most in the AL.

## GUARDIANS 9, RANGERS 2

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—José Ramírez homered on his 31st birthday to touch off Cleveland's nine-run outburst in the fourth inning, leading the Guardians to a three-game sweep of playoff-chasing Texas.

With the loss by Texas, Baltimore and Tampa Bay clinched playoff berths.

Ramírez connected off rookie Cody Bradford (4-2) leading off the fourth and the Guardians kept swinging away. They scored a season-high nine runs on a season-best nine hits — the homer, two doubles and six singles.

## CARDINALS 6, PHILLIES 5

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Jordan Walker hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Paul Goldschmidt drove in three runs to lead St. Louis over Philadelphia.

St. Louis avoided a season sweep after losing its first five meetings with the Phillies this year.

Alec Bohm homered for Philadelphia, which leads the NL wild-card race.

Walker homered off Seranthony Domínguez (4-5) with two outs to snap a 5-all tie.

## TWINS 4, WHITE SOX 0

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Sonny Gray closed on Gerrit Cole for the AL ERA lead, Edouard Julien and Jorge Polanco homered and AL Central-leading Minnesota earned its 11th shutout this season.

Gray (8-7) lowered his ERA from 2.96 to 2.84, just behind Cole, who leads the AL at 2.81 for the New York Yankees. Gray gave up five hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked none, ending a three-start winless streak.

## DIAMONDBACKS 6, CUBS 2

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Ketel Marte homered and Arizona got a great performance from its bullpen as the Diamondbacks defeated Chicago to pass them for the second National League wild-card spot.

The latest victory moved Arizona a half-game ahead of Chicago for the second NL wild card, while the Cubs fell into a tie with Miami for the league's final playoff spot.

Four relievers combined to pitch 5 2/3 scoreless innings for Arizona, giving up three hits and no walks. Luis Frías (1-0) got five outs for the win.

## METS 8, REDS 4

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Pinch-hitter Daniel Vogelbach had a three-run double in the seventh inning, and New York hurt Cincinnati's wild card chances.

A trio of rookies—third baseman Noelvi Marte, first baseman Christian Encarnacion-Strand and relief pitcher Carson Spiers—made errors for the Reds, who had four errors in their previous eight games combined.

José Quintana (3-5) allowed two runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings. Quintana, who didn't debut for the Mets until July 20 after a broken left rib, has a 3.02 ERA in 11 starts.

## PIRATES 3, YANKEES 2

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Jason Delay hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning that benefited from a fortunate bounce off third base, and Pittsburgh edged New York to avoid a three-game sweep.

Delay turned on a curveball from Carlos Rodón (3-6) and hit a bouncer that nicked the outside of the bag and rolled away from New York third baseman Oswald Peraza and into foul territory in left field, allowing Jared Triolo to score from second.

David Bednar worked around a one-out double by Austin Wells for his 36th save.

Rodón pitched relatively well across 6 2/3 innings in his 12th start since returning from forearm and back injuries that sidelined him until early July. The left-hander allowed three runs on six hits. He struck out a season-high 10, reaching the 1,000-strikeout mark for his career when he fanned Ke'Bryan Hayes leading off the fourth.

## GIANTS 11, ROCKIES 10

**DENVER** (AP)—Thairo Estrada and Joc Pederson had two hits each in a 10-hit sixth inning as San Francisco opened a nine-run lead, and the Giants hung on to beat Colorado and stop a three-game skid that hurt their wild card chances.

San Francisco led 9-0 in the sixth inning before Colorado closed. The Giants stopped their longest road losing streak since 1996 at nine games.

Rockies starter Chris Flexen (1-8) gave up four runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings. Colorado had won a season-high five straight games but stopped to 12-33 against the NL West, their worst winning percentage against the division.

Sean Manaea (6-6), making his second start since May 10, gave up three runs—two earned—and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. Taylor Rogers earned his second save.

## PADRES 10, ATHLETICS 1

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Juan Soto homered twice, including his first career grand slam, and San Diego won its fourth straight game for the first time this season.

The Padres had been the only team in baseball this season to not have a win streak of more than three games. Their success resulted in another dubious mark for the A's, whose 103 losses this season are the most in franchise history since 1979.

Both starting pitchers threw three scoreless innings before being replaced—Joe Boyle for the A's and Nick Martinez for the Padres. Pedro Avila (2-2) recorded the win for the Padres after making his first relief appearance in nearly a month.

Ken Waldichuk (3-8), who replaced Boyle in the fourth inning, immediately gave up three straight hits.

## TIGERS 5, ANGELS 3

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Los Angeles was assured its eighth consecutive losing season, falling to Detroit as the Tigers completed a three-game sweep behind two home runs from Jake Rogers in the first three innings.

The Angels (68-82), playing without injured stars Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout, have lost five straight games and dropped to 4-12 in September.

Joey Wentz (3-11) won for the second time in 16 appearances since May 14, giving up three runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings. Alex Lange pitched a perfect ninth for his 24th save in 29 chances.

Scheduled starter Reid Detmers was scratched by the Angels because of illness. Jimmy Herget opened with a scoreless inning and Kenny Rosenberg (1-2) gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings.

# Mahomes, Chiefs get past early mistakes to beat Jaguars, avoid 0-2 start

AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) gestures to the crowd during the second half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, in Jacksonville, Fla.

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes, including one to returning star Travis Kelce, and the Kansas City Chiefs overcame three early turnovers to beat Jacksonville 17-9 on Sunday for their third victory against the Jaguars in 10 months.

The Chiefs (1-1) won their eighth straight in the series and avoided becoming the first Super Bowl champions to start 0-2 since Denver in 1999.

The Jaguars (1-1), who insisted all week they owed the Chiefs because of a loss in the divisional round of the AFC playoffs in January, pretty much no-showed in their home opener.

Coach Doug Pederson's team had another slow start, failed to capitalize on two of three turnovers and struggled to protect quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

Lawrence threw incomplete on a fourth-and-12 play with 4:16 remaining in an eight-point game, and Kansas City didn't let the Jaguars get the ball back.

## COMMANDERS 35, BRONCOS 33

**DENVER** (AP)—Sam Howell threw for two touchdowns and Washington rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat Denver, holding on after Russell Wilson connected with Brandon Johnson on a 50-yard Hail Mary but failed to complete the tying 2-point try.

Washington cornerback Benjamin St-Juste broke up Wilson's pass to Courtland Sutton on the 2-point conversion attempt. St-Juste appeared to get away with pass interference, but no flag was thrown and the Commanders celebrated the franchise's first 2-0 start since 2011.

Howell threw for 299 yards on on 27-of-39 passing in his first road start and led Washington to the second-biggest comeback in franchise history. Washington overcame a 21-point deficit to beat Detroit on Nov. 4, 1990.

The Commanders trailed 21-3 in the second quarter. Brian Robinson Jr. ran for two scores during a 32-6 scoring outburst before the Broncos made it interesting at the very end.

## RAVENS 27, BENGALS 24

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Lamar Jackson tossed two touchdown passes, Gus Edwards ran for another score and Baltimore held off slow-starting Cincinnati.

The AFC North champion Bengals fell to 0-2 for the second consecutive season. The Ravens (2-0), their division rival, certainly looked like the better team.

Jackson was 24 for 33 for 237 yards. He ran for 54 more, and Edwards—with more chances because of a season-ending Achilles tendon injury to J.K. Dobbins—picked up 62 yards on 10 carries.

## SEAHAWKS 37, LIONS 31, OT

**DETROIT** (AP)—Geno Smith threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett on the opening drive of overtime, lifting Seattle past Detroit.

The Seahawks (1-1) allowed the Lions (1-1) to rally from a 10-point deficit late in the fourth quarter. Detroit extended the game with Riley Patterson's 38-yard field goal on the final play of regulation.

Smith threw a go-ahead, 3-yard touchdown pass to Lockett early in the fourth. Tre Brown intercepted Jared Goff and returned it 40 yards for a score on the ensuring drive to give Seattle a 31-21 lead.

Goff showed his resilience after throwing his first interception in 383 attempts—30 shy of the NFL record—by throwing a 4-yard touchdown pass to Josh Reynolds.

## TITANS 27, CHARGERS 24, OT

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Nick Folk kicked a 41-yard field goal in overtime in a sudden downpour and Tennessee beat Los Angeles to snap an eight-game skid.

The Titans (1-1) won for the first time since last Nov. 17 at Green Bay. They had to rally from an 11-point deficit, at which point the Chargers had more points than Tennessee had yards (8).

Ryan Tannehill rebounded from the worst game of his career in the opener by throwing for 246 yards. He put Tennessee up 24-21 with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine. He also ran for a touchdown and started the game-winning drive with a 49-yard toss to Chris Moore.

Derrick Henry rushed for 80 yards and a touchdown.

## GIANTS 31, CARDINALS 28

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Daniel Jones threw for 321 yards and two touchdowns, Graham Gano connected on a 34-yard field goal with 19 seconds remaining and New York rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to stun Arizona.

It was the biggest comeback win for the Giants since a 21-point rally in 1949 — also against the Cardinals. Arizona blew its biggest lead since 2011.

The Giants (1-1) lost 40-0 in Week 1 against Dallas and didn't look much better against the Cardinals during the first half, falling into a 20-0 hole at halftime. They trailed 28-7 in the third quarter but evened the game on a 1-yard touchdown run by Barkley, a 9-yard TD pass from Jones to Barkley and Jones' perfectly placed 11-yard touchdown pass to a diving Isaiah Hodgins.

The Giants forced a three-and-out, then drove 56 yards in eight plays to set up Gano's go-ahead kick.

## DOLPHINS 24, PATRIOTS 17

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Raheem Mostert had a pair of TD runs, including a 43-yard romp in the fourth quarter, and Tua Tagovailoa added a 2-yard touchdown pass to Tyreek Hill to help Miami hold off New England.

Mostert carried 18 times for 121 yards and Tagovailoa completed 21 of 30 passes for 249 yards and an interception. Miami has opened with two road wins and will try for its second straight 3-0 start under coach Mike McDaniel when it hosts Denver next weekend.

New England dropped to 0-2 for the first time since 2001, which was Bill Belichick's second season as coach. Tom Brady took over at quarterback for that team, which went on to win the Super Bowl.

Trailing 24-17, the Patriots appeared to keep their hopes alive by converting a fourth-and-4 on the Dolphins 33. Mac Jones completed a pass to Mike Gesicki short of the first down marker, but the veteran tight end spun and flipped the ball to left guard Cole Strange, who lunged forward.

## COWBOYS 30, JETS 10

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Dak Prescott threw for two touchdowns, Zach Wilson had three interceptions in his first start after Aaron Rodgers' season-ending Achilles tendon injury, and Dallas beat New York.

CeeDee Lamb had 143 yards receiving and Brandon Aubrey kicked five field goals in the 28-year-old rookie's second game as the Cowboys (2-0) finished a season-opening sweep of the New York teams. Dallas routed the Giants 40-0 in the opener.

Wilson threw a 68-yard touchdown pass to Garrett Wilson to get the Jets (1-1) within three points in the second quarter and ran for 36 yards on a drive to a field goal for an eight-point halftime deficit.

But New York had just 147 yards outside the long TD, and four second-half turnovers left little doubt for Dallas.

## 49ERS 30, RAMS 23

**INGLEWOOD, Calif.** (AP)—Brock Purdy passed for 206 yards and ran for an early touchdown, Deebo Samuel rushed for an 11-yard TD with 11:28 left and San Francisco hung on for its ninth consecutive regular-season victory over Los Angeles.

Christian McCaffrey rushed for 116 yards and a score for the 49ers (2-0), whose only loss to the Rams since December 2018 was in the NFC championship game in January 2022.

Isaiah Oliver and Deommodore Lenoir intercepted passes by Matthew Stafford in the second half, finally allowing the 49ers to pull in front of their longtime rivals.

The 49ers' defense overcame a record-setting performance by rookie Puka Nacua, who caught 15 passes for 147 yards for Los Angeles (1-1). The fifth-round pick broke the NFL's single-game record for receptions by a rookie, and he set a new overall league mark with 25 catches in the first two games of his career.

## FALCONS 25, PACKERS 24

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Younghoe Koo booted a 25-yard field goal with 57 seconds remaining and rookie Bijan Robinson turned in another dynamic performance, rallying Atlanta past Jordan Love and Green Bay.

Robinson rushed for 124 yards on 19 carries and hauled in four catches for another 48 yards, showing why the Falcons (2-0) selected him No. 8 in the draft even though running backs aren't supposed to go that high anymore.

The Packers (1-1) squandered a 24-12 lead and three more touchdown passes from Love, who now has a half-dozen scoring throws in his first two games as Aaron Rodgers' replacement.

Atlanta's young quarterback, Desmond Ridder, bootlegged for a 6-yard touchdown on fourth-and-4 with just under 12 minutes remaining.

## BILLS 38, RAIDERS 10

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** (AP)—Josh Allen rebounded from a four-turnover, season-opening dud by throwing three touchdown passes and Buffalo routed Las Vegas.

Allen completed his first 13 attempts for 94 yards, and finished 31 of 37 for 274 yards and no turnovers. His 13 consecutive completions to start the game set an individual record and matched his best run at any point of an outing. He improved to 13-4 in games following a loss, and 23-4 when he doesn't turn the ball over.

Dawson Knox scored on a 2-yard catch to put Buffalo up 14-7 three minutes into the second quarter, and Khalil Shakir padded the lead with an 11-yard touchdown reception in the final seconds of the first half.

James Cook rushed for 123 yards on 17 carries for the Bills.

The Raiders (1-1) blew an opportunity to open a season with back-to-back road wins for the first time since 1982. Jimmy Garoppolo finished 16 of 24 for 185 yards, with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams. He was intercepted twice, by linebackers Matt Milano and Terrel Bernard.

## BUCCANEERS 27, BEARS 17

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Baker Mayfield passed for 317 yards and a touchdown, adding to his strong debut with Tampa Bay, which beat Chicago.

With Mayfield playing turnover-free for the second straight week and Mike Evans catching six balls for 171 yards and a TD, the Bucs improved to 2-0 while handing the Bears a franchise-record 12th consecutive loss.

Mayfield completed 26 of 34 passes. He set up Rachaad White's 1-yard TD run with a 70-yard completion to Evans in the first quarter. He also finished an 89-yard drive with a 32-yard scoring pass to Evans early in the second half.

Tampa Bay's defense did its job, too, after yielding a 75-yard TD drive on Chicago's first possession. The Buccaneers sacked Justin Fields six times and picked him off twice.

## COLTS 31, TEXANS 20

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Anthony Richardson rushed for two touchdowns before leaving with a concussion and backup Gardner Minshew threw for 171 yards and a TD as Indianapolis held off Houston.

It was the first win for coach Shane Steichen, who was hired in February after spending the last two seasons as Philadelphia's offensive coordinator.

The Colts led by 18 at halftime and managed only a field goal in the second half. But their dominant start was enough to snap an eight-game skid dating to last season. It was their first win since Nov. 13 at Las Vegas.

Richardson gave the Colts (1-1) an early lead when he dashed 18 yards untouched on their first drive. Minshew took over for Richardson in the second quarter and orchestrated a 76-yard drive capped by an 11-yard scoring run by Zack Moss that made it 21-7.

# Went from 'Long Shot' to 'sure thing' with two straight wins

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

They went from Long Shot to sure thing as they won two straight games and brought their team out of the gutter in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In their makeup game from Sept. 8, Long Shot edged Win Pacific-Gualo Rai Warriors, 59-51, last Sunday for their second win.

Long Shot had an early advantage as they went through the first quarter on a roll when they made most of their attempts. Confidence ruled the court for Long Shot as a couple of 3-pointers by Allan Chavez and Jun Estolas only lengthened their lead over Win Pacific, and by the end of it, they were up by 10 points, 21-11.

Win Pacific tried to push for a comeback in the second as they closed the gap and were not too far behind. Darwin Gonzales assisted mostly from the free throw line and was paired by his teammates' more accurate shots this time around. Heading into the third quarter, they trailed by just 8 points, 34-26.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Long Shot poses for a group photo after one of their games in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Long Shot pulled away in the third quarter though as they limited Win Pacific to just 7 points. It wasn't a high-scoring game for both teams but Long Shot's Jun Estolas led them with 11, while Chavez had 9 markers, and Angel Cubangbang made 8.

The fourth quarter was a battle of stamina as both teams' hard push early in the game took a toll on them. Win Pacific's Nelson Samson tried to carry his team by being open most of the time and scoring a team-high 13 points, but it wasn't enough as Long Shot's Rico Morales and Chavez's crucial free throws, plus a fastbreak clutch 3-pointer by Alain Nunez sealed their second win.

In their game against Vizion, Long Shot grabbed their first win in a 78-66 game last Thursday. Vizion hustled early and created multiple free throw opportunities as they came within just one point in the first quarter, 16-17.

But after a flurry of shots by Long Shot's Melvin Villarin, and later assisted by June Flores, Rico Morales, Cubangbang, and Jerry Tolentino, they created such a big gap that Vizion did not see coming, and won their first game.

In a makeup game between Legends and Win Pacific last Sunday, Legends won, 59-51; last Friday, Socho defeated Winners Group, 76-72, and A Plus won over Legends, 97-62; last Thursday, Check Point is still undefeated after they beat Choju, 76-74; and last Wednesday, Solid North won against Loving Hands, 66-62, while Lakay slipped past Win Pacific, 78-70.

As of Sept. 12, the team standings in the open division Pool A are: Solid North 5-1; Easy Riders 3-0; The Game 3-1; Loving Hands 2-2; Priority Care 2-3; Winners Group 1-4; Socho 2-4; and Home Smart 0-3.

In the open division Pool B, Checkpoint is at 5-0; CK Saints 4-0; Vik Team 3-3; Choju 2-3; Bridge Capital 1-4; 670 Rollers 1-5, and IT&E 0-4.

In the masters division, A Plus Team is on top with 3-0; Blue Haus 3-1; JSN 2-0; Lakay 2-1; Long Shot 2-3; Legends 2-2; Vizion 1-2; Win Pacific 0-6.

**Long Shot 59** – Estolas 11, Chavez 9, Cubangbang 8, Tolentino 7, Dela Torre 5, Nunez 5, Villarin 4, Bhajan 4, Flores 3, Sacramento 2, Morales 1.

**Win Pacific-Gualo Rai Warriors 51** – Samson 13, Cabrera 8, George 7, Gonzales 7, Galulu 6, Agbanlog 6, Alano 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-11, 34-26, 43-33, 59-51.

## ACS

*From page 20*

third by a few seconds was ACS' Jireh Wang at 17:19.13.

Kaithlyn Chavez was the fleetest afoot in the girls individual standings with 18:52.95; second was Kagman High School's Pia Ngewakl; and third was ACS' Mary Zhu at 22:46.08.

ACS did not run participate in the first qualifier last Sept. 9, but wasted no time as they came ready to win in the second qualifier.

Administrator Pastor Kok H. Pang said on the return of the new school year and school sports,

"First of all, I thank God for the new school year for all schools, teachers/staff, parents and students. Just thankful that we are alive and kicking. Secondly, I am thankful and delighted to see PSS organized athletic programs started with aplomb."

On ACS teams' performance he said, "I am just grateful that our Agape students are ready to run even though many kids are not enjoying running. These are just qualifying results which are not final. The championship in the middle of October is the real standard of each athlete and all the schools."

He added, "I can see that there are many good young runners coming up in different schools. We are going to have some very good results coming in next month's final at the Saipan Country Club."

The next qualifier is the SIS Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff is on Saturday, Sept. 30; the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School is on Oct. 7; and the championship is set for Oct. 14 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of middle school and elementary school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

## COVMS

*From page 20*

COVMS' Liam Wilson, Tutum Jones, and Jevaughn Villagomez were a triple threat on the court as they shouldered most of their team's points. Navigating through the paint was light work for the Lancherus, while the Knights could muster only a point in the first half via a free throw.

The Knights tried to recover and made 6 more shots that sank in the second half, but the Lancherus' smothering defense and more accurate offense held them to just 7 points. The Lancherus scored 8 more points until the final buzzer rang.

The Torchbearers had a tougher time against the Knights' varsity team, but a clutch field goal by Daniel Yang broke the 23-23 tie in the last seconds of the game.

Yang was the leading scorer for the Torchbearers with 16 points as he was open most of the time and had the most accurate baskets. He ably supported by Raffy Cai's 9 points.

For the Knights, James Matsumoto tore through the court with his 11 markers and was assisted by David Apatang, Arstin Tagabuel, and Dylan Niric.

In other results, Hopwood Middle School varsity took on their junior varsity team and won, 32-9; and Saipan International School won over Tanapag Middle School via forfeit.

## BLUE

*From page 20*

tom of the last inning to scoop the win against Saipal, 13-12, as Saipal couldn't quite catch a break after losing their previous game by just one run.

Down by just one run in the sixth inning, 10-11, Saipal's J.P. Castro and Syl Kapileo scored two runs in their last at-bat to regain the lead, 12-11.

It was still anybody's game, but PayDayHao came back with a vengeance as TinDin Leon Guerrero tied the game up, 12-12. Eli Aughenbaugh rounded the bases for the second run and the win.

PayDayHao hit the long ball six times—with two home runs made by Geoff Cruz and a grand slam by Ton Leon Guerrero.

### Kebruka 16, Team Mac 0

Kebruka silenced Team Mac in a mercy-rule shortened game, 16-0.

In this one-sided slugfest, Kebruka scored three runs in the first inning from a run by pitcher Mario Salas and Nate Kaipat's two-run jack.

The second inning saw Team Mac pitcher Alonso Besong get pelted by Kebruka's additional runs. After two runs in the second and four in the fourth inning, Salas went on to finish what he started and threw a shutout game by retiring Team Mac in order.

# USA Basketball back atop FIBA men's world rankings

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

USA Basketball is back atop the FIBA men's world rankings, even after failing to medal at the World Cup.

The Americans flipped spots with Spain for No. 1 in the world in the updated rankings that were released Friday, reclaiming the top spot that they lost late last year. Spain is now No. 2, and World Cup champion Germany soared eight spots to No. 3 on the world list—the best in that program's history.

It's certainly possible now that the Americans will keep the top spot leading into the Paris Olympics, where the U.S. will aim for a fifth consecutive gold medal. FIBA, the sport's governing body, updates its rankings every few months; Friday's update was the first tweak to the men's list since February.

Spain had overtaken the U.S. in November 2022, ending a 12-year run in the top spot for the Americans.

"The world is good at basketball," U.S. point guard Jalen Brunson of the New York Knicks said as the World Cup was winding down. "Respect everybody."

FIBA's rankings were changed in 2017 to a system that only takes results from the most recent eight years into account. The Olympic golds from Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo factor into the current rankings, and obviously help after back-to-back failures to medal at the last two World Cups—the U.S. was seventh at China in 2019 and fourth in Manila earlier this month, falling to Germany in the semifinals and Canada in the bronze-medal game.

Canada soared nine spots to No. 6 in the world after winning that bronze, and Latvia—which made the quarterfinals of its first World Cup—climbed 22 spots to No. 8.

The top 10 teams are the U.S., Spain, Germany, Australia (which slipped one spot to No. 4), World Cup silver medalist Serbia (which climbed one spot to No. 5), Canada, Argentina (down three spots to No. 7 after not even making the World Cup field), Latvia, France (down four spots to No. 9) and Lithuania (down four spots to No. 10).

The biggest climber in the rankings after the World Cup was South Sudan, which was No. 63 in the world before the tournament and moved up 32 spots to No. 31. South Sudan qualified for the Paris Olympics after ending the World Cup as the best finisher from Africa at the tournament.

"This team is a beam of light, like I keep on saying," South Sudan coach Royal Ivey said after his team clinched the Olympic berth in Manila. "We're bringing unity, camaraderie, love and friendship to this country."

Latvia was the second-biggest climber, rising 22 spots, and Cape Verde—which got a win at the World Cup—improved its ranking 19 spots to No. 46.

"We made a statement," Cape Verde's Will Tavares, a Rhode Island-born forward, said after the World Cup win. "Even though we're the smallest country, we have so much heart."

There are 159 men's teams in the FIBA rankings. USA Basketball also is ranked No. 1 in the other three sets of rankings maintained by FIBA—women, boys and girls, all by wide margins.

AP

U.S. forward Mikal Bridges (5) gestures during the Basketball World Cup quarterfinal game between Italy and U.S. at the Mall of Asia Arena in Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023.

Mullins' 11th-inning sacrifice fly lifts Orioles over.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Went from 'Long Shot' to 'sure thing' with two straight wins.

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# ACS sweeps HS cross country qualifier

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School high school and middle school girls cross country teams pose for a photo before the second qualifier of the PSS-NMA All School Cross Country 2023-2024 at the American Memorial Park last Saturday morning.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School Torchbearers' boys and girls high school cross country teams burst into the scene with a sweep of both divisions in the second PSS-NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier at the American Memorial Park last Saturday morning.

The Torchbearers won first place in the boy division with 19 points; followed by Marianas High School's 23 points; Mount Carmel School came in third with 41 points; Saipan International School had 46 points; and Saipan Southern High School was last with 74 points.

In the girls division, ACS topped it as well with 21 points; SIS was second with 28; MHS was third at 44 points; and SSHS was last with 63 points.

Michael Miller of MHS came in first in the individual boys standings with a time of 16:42.08; MHS' Pony Tang was second at 17:15.64; and a close

See ACS on Page 19

## Blue Jays fly over TuTuRamZ, 11-1

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The early Sunday morning rain didn't clip the Blue Jays' wings as they flew over TuTuRamZ, 11-1, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

After Blue Jays pitcher Austin Piteg retired TuTuRamZ's lineup in order, James Salalila scored the first run, followed by a three-run home run by Kier Agda for a 4-0, first inning lead. TuTuRamZ was retired in order once again in the second inning as the Blue Jays' Jeremy Koshiro added another run for a 5-0 game.

When it seemed like it would be a shutout game for Piteg, Jason Reyes scored TuTuRamZ's one and only run in the third inning. Despite being the lone chip in Piteg's armor, he went on to shut down TuTuRamZ's lineup and allowed only four more hits throughout the game.

The Blue Jays' offense exploded in the fifth inning with five more runs. Piteg helped his cause as he hit a two-run shot. One more run came in the form of Adam Salalila in the last inning and that was all they wrote as TuTuRamz failed to retaliate.

### PayDayHao 13, Saipal 12

PayDayHao rallied in the bot-

See BLUE on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Blue Jays' Kyle Foreman, right, slides and is called out at third base during their game against TuTuRamZ in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

## COVMS, ACS take wins in MS hoops

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

ChaCha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus and Agape Christian School Torchbearers both took wins in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lancherus won over Mount Carmel School junior varsity, 26-7, while the Torchbearers claimed their second victim through MCS varsity in a close 25-23 final.

SeeCOVMS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, a ChaCha Ocean View Middle School basketball player, right, goes up against Hopwood Middle School defenders during a rebound in one of their games in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.